

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

OCTOBER, 1991

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 8

Inside
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Team Make
Wimp Smile?

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• The Right Tackles
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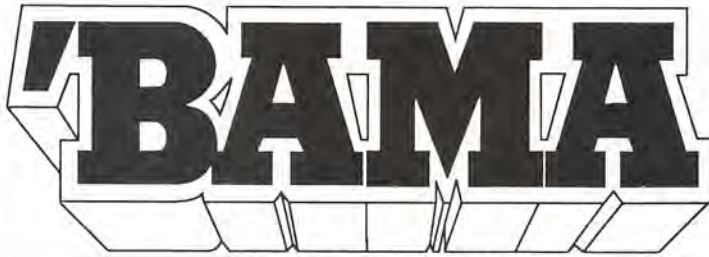
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Barry Fikes Photo



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BAMA SCORECARD

Signing Dates

It's getting to be the time of year when people start thinking about recruiting. The dates to remember are:

November 13-November 20-Early signing period for winter and spring sports, including basketball.

December 11-January 15-Signing period for junior college football transfers.

February 5-April 1-Regular football signing period and volleyball signing period.

April 15-May 15-Regular signing period for winter and spring sports, except baseball may sign new players through August 1.

Bowl Dates

Remember when the Big Four played their bowl games on January 1, after all the others. Now it seems everyone is on New Year's Day. In fact, eight bowl games will be on January 1 this year. Here are all the bowl dates:

December 14, California Raisin Bowl in Fresno, California

December 25, Eagle Aloha Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii

December 27, Freedom Bowl in Anaheim, California

December 28, Blockbuster Bowl in Miami

December 28 or 29, Liberty Bowl in Memphis

December 29, Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida

December 30, Holiday Bowl in San Diego

December 31, John Hancock Bowl in El Paso

December 31, Copper Bowl in Tucson

January 1, Peach Bowl in Atlanta

January 1, Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa

January 1, Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando

January 1, Cotton Bowl in Dallas

January 1, Fiesta Bowl in Tempe

January 1, Rose Bowl in Pasadena

January 1, Orange Bowl in Miami

January 1, Sugar Bowl in New Orleans

Televised Basketball

The Southeastern Conference has announced its schedule of televised basketball games this year. Alabama will be seen seven times, including twice on the national cable network, ESPN. The other Tide telecasts will be on the regional telecasts by Jefferson-Pilot. Bama television games are at South Carolina (January 28 on ESPN),

Kentucky (February 12), Arkansas (February 22) and LSU (February 29). Bama's home telecasts will be against Arkansas (January 8), LSU (January 14 on ESPN) and Tennessee (February 8).

As expected, Kentucky leads the way in telecasts with 15, followed by LSU with 13 and Arkansas 12.

There is also a possibility the Alabama-Auburn game on March 7 could be picked as one of two wild card games to be televised that day. And all games in the SEC Tournament will be televised.

There Will Be A Champion

Although it had been announced that there would be basketball champions only on divisional bases this year (since the Southeastern Conference is splitting into East and West Divisions), the latest information is that there will be an overall champion. This year each team plays the other five teams in its division twice, home and away, then plays each of the six teams in the other division once, three at home, three on the road. A release from the SEC said, "The conference will recognize Divisional Champions, based on winning percentage over all 16 league games, while the school with the highest winning percentage in conference games will also be the SEC Champion." The overall winning percentages will presumably be used in computation for the All-Sports Championship.

There will be one other champion, the SEC Tournament Champion, which receives the automatic bid to the NCAA Championship. The East and West Division champions will receive first round byes in the tournament, automatically advancing to the quarterfinals. If the top seeded team wins each game, each game in the tournament will pit an East Division team against a West Division team.

This year's tournament will be March 12-15 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center.

Preseason Polls

Alabama is a top twenty selection in some of the early preseason basketball publications. *Dick Vitale's Basketball Yearbook* picks Bama 18th, *Street & Smith's* has the Tide 15th, and *NCAA Basketball Preview* puts Alabama 14th.

Arkansas, LSU and Kentucky are all picked ahead of Alabama in all three polls, while Georgia is mentioned in two of the ratings behind the Tide.

Guard James Robinson is an honorable mention All-America by *Street & Smith's*, while forward Robert Horry is fifth team All-America by *NCAA Basketball Preview*.

Tide Gets NCAA Bucks

The University of Alabama will receive a quarter of a million dollars as its share of money being distributed by the NCAA under the third phase of a plan for sharing basketball tournament television revenue. The funds are being paid according to a formula which rewards the 294 Division I schools for the number of sports and scholarships offered. Wisconsin, which has 25 sports and offers 275 scholarships, was the big winner with receipt of \$419,811. Points were awarded for the number of scholarships offered, with one for each scholarship up to 50, two for each scholarship between 51 and 100, 10 for each between 101 and 150, and 20 for 151 and above. Alabama was paid \$45,554 for the number of sports and \$201,186 for the number of scholarships, a total of \$246,740.

NCAA members voted to split each year's take from CBS television's seven-year, \$1 billion contract into three pools. The Basketball Pool, to be divided among Division I conferences based on the number of games their teams play in the tournament, are paid in April, followed by a flat \$25,000 academic enhancement payment to each school in June, and then the scholarship/sport payments.

Pitching Is Problem

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger doesn't have much time to find pitchers for the 1992 Alabama baseball season. There are no more fall practice baseball games, so the team is limited to intrasquad games. While Shollenberger points out the advantage of that (every player on the field is an Alabama player), he also knows that competition would help his inexperienced pitching staff. And he has only until October 13 to work this fall, then only 21 days before the first game in the spring. That first game is February 15, so he'll be able to get his team started back in late January. Of Bama's five returning pitchers two are recovering from arm surgery and one had a grand total of one inning pitched experience.

Shollenberger has seen some good things in the first half of fall workouts. He said all of the returning players played summer ball and all came back in good shape. He has been particularly

impressed with returning starters outfielder Mickey Kerns, third baseman Jerry Shelton and shortstop Juan DeBrand. He has also noticed the work of returning backup outfielders Joe Alexczyk and Matt Homan. Among the newcomers Shollenberger has praise for catcher Gino Saunders and pitcher-outfielder Steve Shoemaker. He also said there were 13 walkons on the squad and that it was a good group of non-scholarshipped players.

The team practices at 2 p.m. each day except Saturday and there are frequent intrasquad games. Practices are open.

Semifinalist

While the excellent play of senior Alabama golfer Dicky Pride in this year's Men's United States Amateur Championship was noted, we overlooked the performance of another former Crimson Tide athlete who also reached the semifinals of the United States Amateur. Martha Jones Lang is a 1975 Alabama graduate who reached the semifinals of the women's national championship in Hutchinson, Kansas, in August. Originally from Decatur, she was the first female to receive an athletic scholarship under Title IX, which went into effect while she was in school.

Newspaper coverage in Hutchinson described her as "darkhorse favorite Martha Lang, a 38-year-old housewife from Geneva, Illinois. 1988 U.S. Mid-Amateur champion Lang is a five-time U.S. Open qualifier and nine-time U.S. Women's Amateur qualifier."

Bradley Honored

Former Alabama golfer Lynn Bradley, who graduated in May, has been named as one of the NCAA Woman of the Year award winners. Each of the 52 winners (representing each state plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) advances to the finals and is eligible to be named NCAA Woman of the Year on October 30.

Bradley, a co-captain on Alabama's team her senior year, had three top 10 finishes and placed in the top 25 nine times. For three consecutive years she was named an All-America and as a senior was an Academic All-America. She received the University's Paul Bryant Scholar-Athlete Award signifying her as the top female student-athlete at Alabama and has been awarded Southeastern Conference and NCAA post graduate scholarships.

A national panel of sports journalists will narrow the field to 10 finalists from whom the NCAA Woman of the Year will be chosen. Award competition balances academic achievement, athletic accomplishment and community service.

Golf Shootout

The second annual Alabama-Auburn Golf Shootout fund raiser will be held November 23 (the open week for the football teams) at Bent Brook Golf Course in Bessemer. The event raises money for the men's golf teams at both Alabama and Auburn. Anyone interested in playing in the event should make up a foursome. Each foursome will be paired with an Alabama or Auburn golfer, golf coach or athletic staff member.

The first 18 foursomes for each school will be accepted. Registration fee is \$100 per person with part of the fee tax deductible. For those wanting to play on the Alabama side, checks should be made payable to the Alabama Men's Golf Gift Fund and mailed to Coach Dick Spybey, University of Alabama, P.O. Box 40405, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Spybey may be called at (205) 348-7041.

Induction

Alabama Assistant Athletics Director Don Gambril, former head coach of the Crimson Tide swim team, was recently inducted into the America Swim Coaches' Association Hall of Fame. Gambril is one of only seven living coaches to be inducted into the hall and he was the only inductee this year.

Swim Meet

For many years the Alabama swimming and diving team has held a preview intrasquad meet on the morning of the homecoming football game. This year's Red-White meet at the Aquatics Center will begin at 9 a.m. October 12.

Homecoming Agenda

Homecoming at Alabama is October 12, but there are events beginning Friday afternoon.

The Quad Games, including live bands, will be from 2-5 p.m. Friday and the pep rally, including bonfire and fireworks, will begin at 7 p.m. A tent, The Big Top, will be up on the Quad and the Alabama Cavaliers will provide dance music from 8-11 p.m.

Alumni House will open at 9 a.m. Saturday with free shakers and refreshments. The homecoming parade from downtown Tuscaloosa on University Boulevard to the Quad will begin at 10 a.m. There will be barbecue, entertainment and displays on the Quad from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At 1:30 the Elephant Stomp march with the band to Bryant-Denny Stadium begins.

Kickoff against Tulane has been moved to 2:30 p.m. to allow plenty of time for homecoming activities.

Toyota Award

Alabama didn't get much out of its trip to Gainesville, but Bama offensive

guard George Wilson was named recipient of the Toyota Leadership Award. This is a weekly presentation to a participant on each team in ESPN's weekly games. Selections are based on athletic and academic achievement (Wilson has a 3.04 grade point average) and community service. Alabama received a \$1,000 donation to the general scholarship fund.

Curry Was Happy Here

Former Alabama Head Football Coach Bill Curry, who quit his job to take the same position at the University of Kentucky in 1990, recently told *The Cats' Pause*, a publication covering Kentucky athletics, that those who think he was unhappy in Tuscaloosa are wrong. "The biggest illusion of all is that I was unhappy with my job at Alabama," Curry said. "I wasn't unhappy. I just had people that were trying to destroy me. That's not a good organization to be in. It's dishonest. I was happy with the team but not happy with some other things that I couldn't control."

Townsend Talk

Tiger Rag, a publication covering LSU athletics, recently noted the new contract for LSU Athletics Director Joe Dean, a contract which will keep Dean under contract until March 31, 1996, when Dean will be 66. The publication speculated on his successor and one of the names mentioned was Alabama Associate Athletics Director Steve Townsend. Townsend, incidentally, was a co-founder of *Tiger Rag*.

NCAA Publications

Interested in NCAA sports media guides, record books, posters, etc.? For a catalog, write to NCAA Publishing, P.O. Box 7347, Overland Park, KS 66207.

The Last Thing You Need

As Miami newspaper columnist Dave Barry would write, "This is the truth." The Loretto Casket Company in Loretto, Tennessee, is manufacturing Collegiate Caskets for fans of Alabama, Auburn, Georgia and Tennessee with the school colors and logos inside the lid. A spokesman for the company said about a dozen had been sold and that the Alabama model had been the most popular.

Although the casket is not yet an "Officially Licensed Product" (meaning The University getting paid for use of its logo), the company that handles that aspect of fund-raising for The University is looking into it.

By the way, if you just wanted to put one of Bama's trademarks on your headstone, The University ordinarily provides a royalty-free license for that according to Dr. Finis P. Gaston, associate director of business services.

New Kids On The Block

by Kirk McNair

Stallings has not been shy about getting first year players into playing spots

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings didn't hang out a "No Experience Necessary" sign when he began building this year's Crimson Tide football team, but a handful of players with little or no experience are making their presence felt. That may make for brisk sales of football programs, but it also can make for trying times on the field.

An adage of football prior to the eligibility of freshmen and during the one platoon era of players going both ways was that for every sophomore a team started it could expect to lose one game. Now teams not only depend on untested second year players, but many true freshmen are also seeing appreciable playing time. Beyond that, new academic rules in place for the past few years have created a new species of young player, the sophomore who was unable to either practice or play as a freshman.

Stallings isn't shy about using first year players, although he really doesn't have much choice. When he took over as Alabama's head football coach in early 1990 he inherited a team coming off a very fine 10-2 season, co-champions of the Southeastern Conference, and with a number of top performers returning. However, he also found the cupboard about bare in some areas. Beyond that, injuries affected the number of freshmen getting an opportunity in Stallings' first season.

Recruiting was top priority for Bama last winter, and the result was a very strong freshman class. Coupled with depth problems at many positions, that has meant an early opportunity for a number of true freshmen. And, Stallings noted recently, "I like looking out there and seeing those freshmen playing and having fun."

The very good teams will probably continue to redshirt most of their freshman players, then begin working them into the lineup as redshirt freshmen. Ideally, most of the playing will be done by players with several years experience. The poor teams will frequently play younger players, and those teams will always seem to be rebuilding.

On the other side, the very best players are now less reluctant (indeed, they are



David Palmer

probably anxious) to jump to professional football at the earliest possible moment. One can hardly blame a player for that. There are only so many years in those legs and a year in college, playing for tuition and room and board instead of big bucks, can't be made up on the back end. In the face of the possibility of losing an excellent player before his eligibility is exhausted, there is reasonable basis for going ahead and playing the young men as soon as they are able to contribute.

Alabama is in a situation where all of the above may apply. It is true that Alabama is very short of personnel at some positions. That's why Jon Stevenson (see page 16) has moved into a starting position at right offensive tackle. However, Alabama also has very good young players, those who are ready to contribute now and who can help the team win.

Thus far, 12 true freshmen have seen playing time, and while it is unlikely, it is not out of the question that others could join them this year. (And the number does not include some eight redshirt freshmen



Elverett Brown

and one junior college transfer, starting defensive end John Copeland, who are playing for this year's Tide.)

Stevenson is the most obvious example of a freshman having the opportunity to play because he is starting. Beyond that, most of the play by true freshmen has been at the wide receiver positions and on the special teams, although a handful of linemen are also seeing duty.

The dozen freshmen who have played are, in addition to Stevenson, wide receivers David Palmer and Curt Brown; tailback Sherman Williams; offensive lineman Joey Harville; defensive linemen Elverett Brown, Brent Clark and Dameian Jeffries; outside linebacker André Royal; and defensive backs Tommy Johnson, Sam Shade and Will Brown.

The 12 freshmen who have played for Alabama did so in the first game of the year, against Temple. To put that number into perspective, consider that of the other 65-70 scholarshiped players at Alabama only 11 saw playing time in their freshman seasons with the Crimson Tide. (One other Bama player, placekicker Hamp Greene,

played as a freshman at North Carolina.)

In 1987 Robert Stewart played at inside linebacker. He was later redshirted (in 1989). In 1988 four freshmen played—safety Charles Gardner, inside linebacker John Sullins, wide receiver Prince Wimbley and defensive back Mike Campbell. In 1989 outside linebacker Antonio London and defensive back George Teague played. And last year four freshmen saw action—tailbacks Chris Anderson and Tarrant Lynch (although Lynch was injured and received a medical redshirt, so he is still listed as a freshman), nose tackle James Gregory and defensive back Antonio Langham. Four of those players got starting opportunities as freshmen—Stewart, Sullins, Gardner and

Anderson, although none of them started in the first game they played, as did Stevenson this year.

Few Alabama freshmen classes have been so eagerly anticipated by Bama followers as was this one. Some of the performers were almost legendary before they had stepped onto campus. And the most legendary of these was probably David Palmer. Palmer's early practice exploits earned him a nickname from some practice railbirds. "Franchise" is the label hung on the 5-9, 165-pound flanker and kick return specialist. Although he has given an occasional glimmer of his ability in early games, expectations are still greater than achievement thus far. And

they are reasonable expectations, because he has excellent hands, excellent visions and quick, elusive moves.

Curt Brown, who originally signed with Clemson but who was not academically eligible, has also been impressive as a receiver. Brown is still a freshman because he did not enter Clemson, opting instead to work on his academic situation. That left him open to choose any school, and he chose Bama.

Perhaps the most surprising freshman to have played this year is tailback Sherman Williams. When Williams reported, many expected him to be tried on defense, where it was thought he had a better chance to play early. However, his early work at tailback convinced Bama coaches that he can

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be an outstanding offensive player. So why a surprise at playing him? Because Alabama has Siran Stacy, Derrick Lassic, Chris Anderson and Irving Spikes in front of Williams. One suggestion was that Stallings' decision to play Williams was either a great compliment or a great insult to Williams' ability. Stallings said it was a compliment. (Incidentally, Williams came up lame following the Temple game and if the injury lingers, he conceivably could be ticketed for a medical redshirt appeal.)

Alabama's offensive line woes have been well-chronicled. When Joey Harville began knocking people off the ball in early work, Tide coaches began looking at him as a possible performer this year. He has worked at both tackle positions and will probably be a tackle. Two other freshmen offensive linemen have indicated they will be fine players in the future, but neither Kareem McNeal (one of the team's strongest players) nor Rory Segrest (who fell behind when he became ill during early workouts) is expected to play this year.

Although Bama has had depth problems at tight end, the Tide also plans to hold out two tight end signees this year. Tony Johnson is an outstanding prospect, but by his own admission is going to have to

work very hard in the weight room to get strong enough to block at the tight end position. Tim Barnett is plenty big and strong enough to play tight end, so big in fact that most expect him to grow up (from a mere 6-5, 250) into an interior lineman.

The only other true scholarshiped freshman on offense is quarterback Brian Burgdorf. While Burgdorf shows great promise, particularly in running the option, Bama would like to hold him out this year.

Most of the freshmen defensive players seeing action for Bama this year are doing so primarily on special teams. Several of them have been moved from one position to another as Bama looks for the best spot for them. For instance, cornerback Tommy Johnson started out at split end, but he was the only wide receiver who could come close to covering Palmer in drills, and so he got a look on defense, where he shows great potential. Safety Will Brown and cornerback Sam Shade, along with Johnson, are members of various kicking teams.

André Royal worked at inside linebacker in Bama's first few days of practice, but that may have been primarily because there were no true inside linebackers in

camp until the varsity returned. Royal moved to strong safety where he was impressive, but depth there, along with Royal's size and speed, induced Tide coaches to look at him as an outside linebacker. He's playing on special teams, but could see action at outside linebacker.

Defensive line depth was a major concern of the Bama coaching staff going into this season. Although it now appears Bama has five solid players for the three down positions (starters Copeland, Stewart and Eric Curry and backup end Jeremy Nunley, backup nose tackle Gregory), three freshmen have played and two others have been very close to playing. In fact, on at least one occasion the Tide has had a defensive front of all true freshmen—Elverett Brown and Dameian Jeffries at ends and Brent Clark at nose tackle. And Shannon Brown and Bryan Thornton have done well in practice on the defensive front.

Two other Bama defenders are almost certain to be held out as they gain strength. Vann Bodden was an outside linebacker in high school, but he will be beefed up and moved to defensive end. Jeff Torrence could be either an inside or an outside linebacker in the future.

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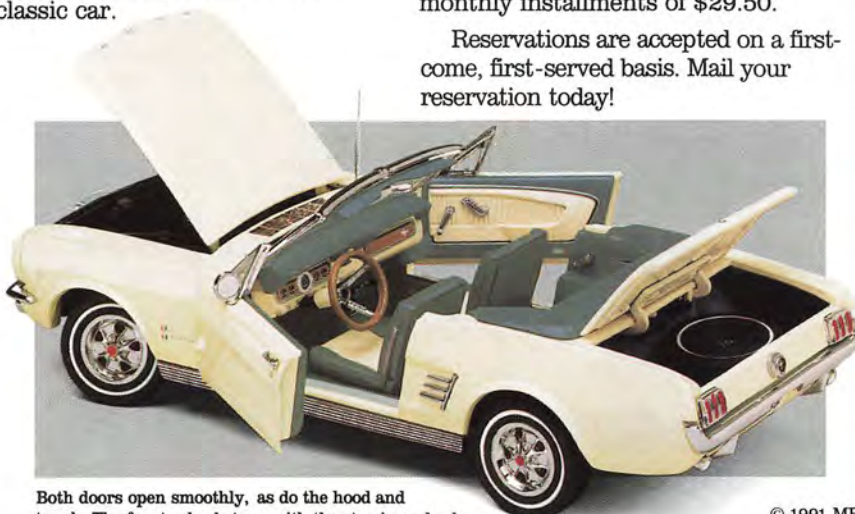
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In Position To Make Some Plays

by Donald F. Staffo

Sophomore linebacker is going to get playing time because he can do the job

Michael Rogers has caught the eye of the Alabama football coaching staff, including Head Coach Gene Stallings. Of course, that's what Alabama football players are supposed to do. Nevertheless, it is somewhat noteworthy because Rogers had never played a down of football for the Crimson Tide prior to this year's season-opener against Temple. A 6-1, 220-pound linebacker from Luverne, Rogers is a redshirt freshman, a player who practiced with the scout team a year ago.

Throughout fall practice the name Michael Rogers was mentioned in the same breath with returning stars and would-be stars. While most of the media attention was on the quarterback race and on the return of injured players and on the glamorous newcomers such as David Palmer, Rogers grabbed his share of attention from those who matter—the Bama coaches.

"You can't help but notice Mike Rogers," said Bill Oliver, who is Alabama's *de facto* defensive coordi-

nator. "He has good ability and he certainly should be able to help us."

Rogers said he is aware that he is being watched. "It makes you feel good when a coach calls your name," he said. "It makes you work harder if you think the coaches recognize you."

Bama returned both starting inside linebackers from last year, 6-1, 225-pound All-Southeastern Conference senior John Sullins and 6-1, 225-pound junior Derrick Oden. Rogers is the number one backup for both, a testimony that he is both fast (4.6 time in the 40-yard dash) and physical. When Oden was injured in the first half against Florida, Rogers stepped in and went the rest of the way.

In the Tide's scheme of things, Sullins starts at what is referred to as "Mike" linebacker, while Oden plays the spot designated "Jack." Lining up across from the tight end, "Mike" must be more physical since the position requires stopping the run at the point of attack. "Jack" calls for more pursuit, necessitating speed and quickness. It's indicative of what Rogers brings to the Tide defense that he is the first in line to go in at either spot.

"Michael probably won't start this year, but he should end up playing a lot," Jeff Rouzie, who coaches Bama's inside linebackers, said. He then added, "But no one has a lock on any position. It's a week-to-week thing based on what people do."

Experience (or, actually, lack of experience) works against all of the inside linebacker candidates except the returning starters. Nevertheless, almost everyone expects Rogers to make a substantial contribution to Bama's defense this year. Backups frequently get as much playing time as starters, particularly a man who is capable of substituting at more than one position as Rogers may be.

The possibility of considerable playing time might be pretty heady stuff for a redshirt freshman, but Rogers claims he is ready for it.

"I'm not surprised," he said. "I expected to play this fast. I've always worked hard, and what is happening is the result of me working hard. I think I have a little talent, and, of course, that helps."

Rogers also has the bloodline. His brother Lamar, after a stellar career as a defensive lineman at Auburn, plays for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

"Mike's got natural ability, the size, and he can run," states Rouzie. "He's also got desire. He came back in good shape. All he needs is time and reps (repetitions of drills in practice)."

Rogers is progressing about as rapidly as can be expected under the circumstances. Not only was he redshirted last year, but he sat out the previous season as a Proposition 48 casualty. That combination put him behind in football, but the two years without the pressure of game competition may have been the best thing for Rogers in the long run.

"That first year helped me get ready for college. It helped me get used to my classes," he said. "I also had a knee injury when I came in and the time away from practice helped that."

"I didn't like the idea of redshirting at first, but now I'm glad I did. I learned a lot. I got a feel for college football. It was probably one of the best things that ever happened to me."

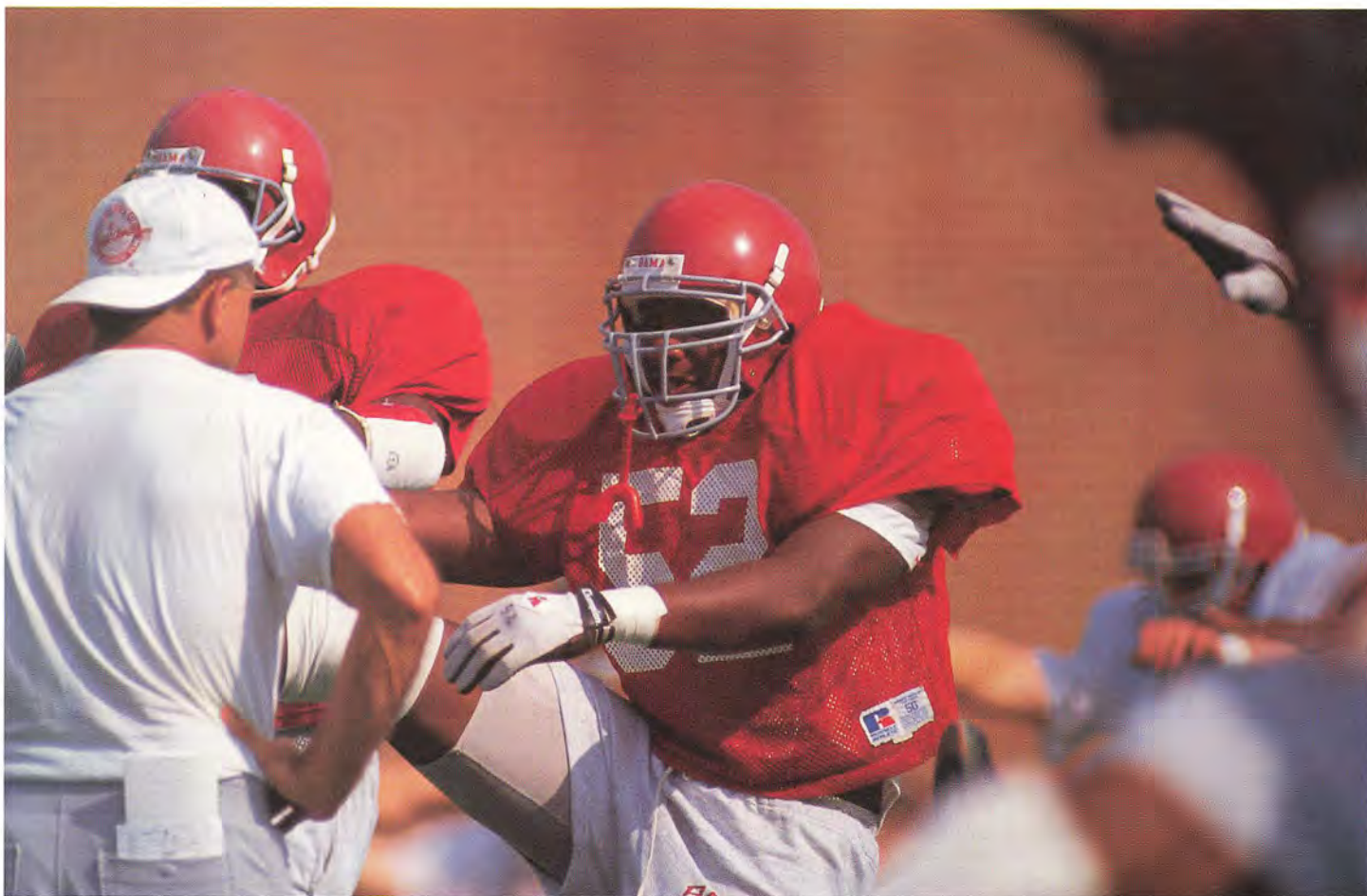
Lacking depth at inside linebacker and provided he stays injury-free Rogers is assured of a lot of game action this year, not only at linebacker, but also as a member of the special teams. He is participating on the kickoff, punt return, and punt cover-



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Sophomore linebacker Michael Rogers (52) gets instruction from Alabama Assistant Coach Jeff Rouzie. Rogers is working both the inside linebacker spots, the Jack position behind Derrick Oden and the Mike position behind John Sullins. Rogers has been one of the most pleasant surprises of the fall as the Crimson Tide attempts to build depth on its defense.

Barry Fikes Photo

age teams.

"I like special teams because it gives me a chance to hit somebody, as does linebacker," he states.

Rogers says Alabama plays mostly a two-gap defense which means if a running play flows his way he has to fill either the B (between guard and tackle) or C (between tackle and tight end) gaps, depending upon which defense the Tide is in.

"If the play goes away from me, I have to play either frontside A (between guard and center) or backside A (to prevent cutbacks)," he explained.

In zone coverage against a dropback pass Rogers says he must defend the hook area 12 to 15 yards beyond the line of scrimmage. "Then if the receivers overload to one side, we go strong side or weak side, depending upon the flow of the backs," he explained. "In that case, one linebacker covers the hook area and the other

linebacker covers the middle of the field, which we call the hole.

"In man-to-man coverage if I'm 'Jack' my responsibility is to pick up the first back out to my side of the field; if it's 'Mike' you can 'banjo' with the outside linebacker (meaning 'Mike' gets the tight end and the outside linebacker picks up the back)."

(Do you have any doubts that an important part of the game of football is mental?)

When you boil it down, Rouzie says, Rogers' run responsibilities will be to control and come through blockers and make the tackle. In passing situations he has to be able to cover people man-to-man, play zone coverage, and recognize sets.

"He has to do an adequate job at both," Rouzie states. "But right now he's not near where we want him to be, or where he wants to be."

Or as Stallings put it: "Michael

Rogers is going to be a fine, fine football player. But he struggled some as a freshman because it's a long way from playing linebacker in high school to playing linebacker at The University of Alabama."

Stallings also mentioned that freshmen skill players generally get to play quicker than other players. With the Tide thin at inside linebacker, Rogers, fully ready or not, has been pressed into service.

Rogers' inexperience will likely be evident early in the season as he learns Alabama's system, but less so as the season (and he) progresses. In the meantime, the learning process will come against live action.

How much action Rogers actually sees "is up to Mike," said Rouzie. "He has the ability to play as much as anyone. We need five kids who we can rotate in and out, and win. Mike can certainly be one of those."

He Makes Best Of The Situation

by Rush Garner

It was a long way from Miami to Tuscaloosa and a long way back from injury, but he's made it

When Prince Wimbley goes home, he remembers what it was like just three short years ago. Before those surroundings were all he knew. Now the pitfalls of drugs and gang violence, which are so redolent in south Florida, seem foreign. Since most of his classmates were not lucky enough to have football to fall back on, they turned to the most lucrative alternative: drugs. Miami is a gateway for the narcotics flow into the United States. This is not the most conducive atmosphere to an ideal lifestyle. It is the general consensus that you are a product of your environment, but Wimbley is the exception rather than the rule. "There was a lot of crime in my neighborhood and I saw a lot of kids selling drugs," Wimbley said. However, he learned to look the other way and accept it as a part of normal life. He did not let any of those external forces get in the way of his ultimate goal of playing college football. "I remember when a guy got shot outside the school over a drug deal," he said. It would have been easy to get caught up in all of the corruption, but Wimbley stayed focused.

His intense desire to overcome these problems paid off as he was awarded an athletic scholarship to play football at the University of Alabama. One could imagine the transition he faced when he arrived

in Tuscaloosa. Coming from the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area, which is inhabited by over eight million people, to Tuscaloosa, which has fewer than one hundred thousand, there was an immediate culture shock. To put that in perspective, if on a given football Saturday at Legion Field the Alabama football team came running out on the field and only one section was filled, they would probably think they were in the wrong place. Now you know how Prince Wimbley must have felt. In an understatement, Wimbley said, "Compared to Miami, Tuscaloosa is kind of slow." Even though he misses all of the excitement and bright lights of Miami, he realizes the convenience and intimacy of Tuscaloosa.

"I am glad I came here because I like the people and they are always real friendly," Wimbley said. The most courteous people, though, are his teammates. Wimbley has established an invaluable rapport with them and feels that the bond he has with them is the most important thing he has achieved. "I really love my teammates for all that we have been through together," he said. "Whether we are on the field or off I know they are behind me."

Now when Wimbley goes home he sees it in a different light. Instead of looking the other way and accepting the flaws of



Woody McCorvey

society he tries to let those people benefit from his experience. He wants to share some of his success with them and show them that hard work does pay off and that the easy way out is not always the best. "I try to be a role model for the kids in my old neighborhood," he said. "They all come up to me and ask me what it's like to be in college and to play at Alabama, and I tell them that the only way for them to ever have a chance to play football and be on television is to stay away from drugs and stay in school." Making hard work pay off and at the same time giving something back to his community is what Prince Wimbley is all about.

Wimbley's work ethic was put to a severe test when last year in the season's third game he tore the posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. All of the hard work he had endured throughout his football career was like a sand castle confronting the afternoon tide. It had to be frustrating to someone who had always been quicker and faster than most his peers to watch helplessly as the other re-

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ceivers did his job. He had two choices: sit around and feel sorry for himself or work twice as hard and get prepared for this season. Fortunately for him and the Crimson Tide football team it was the lat-

ter. After the injury it was a small consolation that he was awarded a medical redshirt for the 1990 season, but it means he has two more years of eligibility after this season.



Prince Wimbley is full speed ahead as Alabama's flanker in 1991. Wimbley was the starter last year until felled by an injury in the third game of the season. He has completely rehabilitated his knee and looks forward to helping bring football championships to Tuscaloosa.

Barry Fikes Photo

His time away from football was not fun time. It was grueling rehabilitation. The intense program included working two hours in the pool every morning coupled with an extensive workout in the weightroom each afternoon.

At 5-9 and 170 pounds Wimbley is not the prototypical college tailback, which had been his high school position. "My high school coach told me to prepare myself to play wide receiver in college because I was not very big," Wimbley said. To help him with the adjustment his coach, Jerry Hughes, switched him to wide receiver with three games remaining in his senior year.

"You can see the tremendous instincts he exhibits as a runner after the catch," the receiver's coach at Alabama, Woody McCorvey, said. Also, "his quickness is a strong asset in traffic. I look for a receiver with quickness rather than speed because without it you cannot elude the first wave of defenders and you will never get to use your speed." Wimbley and the coaching staff were a little concerned that the injury might have hindered some of his quickness, but he still runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds.

When the two-a-day practices started this summer there was some concern as to the durability of the knee because of the swelling which occurred. "At first we were concerned but he just had to work through some of the preliminary side-effects," McCorvey said. In the new offense Wimbley should get plenty of chances to show he has not lost a step because the wide receivers are featured, as opposed to the system where the tight ends and running backs were the focal point of the passing attack.

Wimbley has plenty of competition at flanker, including top recruit David Palmer and a host of returning letterman competing. There are two wide receiver slots, flanker and split end, and many players can play both slots. "All of our receivers are excellent, but one thing that is in my favor is the fact that I have had a lot of game experience and you cannot teach that in practice," Wimbley said.

Although Wimbley was not recruited by the current Bama coaching staff, he is very pleased Coach Gene Stallings is in charge of Tide football. "I feel a lot more comfortable and I think the team is a lot closer," Wimbley said. "Coach Stallings is like a father in that you know if you have a problem you can go to him and he is going to put the player ahead of anything and anyone else."

Wimbley's hard work has put him in a position to set some goals for the season. "First and most important is I have to stay healthy because if I can do that I can help us win the Southeastern Conference championship. And every player here wants to bring the national championship back to Tuscaloosa where it belongs."



At Tackle:

Offense Looks For Right Man

by Donald F. Staffo

A freshman gets the early nod, but other contenders keep plugging away as Tide tries to plug a major gap in its offense

It has been something akin to the parlor game, "Musical Chairs," but no one on the Alabama practice field has been laughing about the outcome. Well, maybe one or two are smiling. The new game going on in the Crimson Tide football camp is at right offensive tackle, where no one has been able to totally satisfy Bama Head Coach Gene Stallings or his assistant coaches.

Last year right tackle belonged to Terrill Chatman, and no one was able to dislodge him from the lineup. Chatman has since graduated.

In the spring, it appeared Bama might have the answer to the right tackle problem. Charley Dare, a 6-5, 290-pound senior who came to The Capstone with virtually every prep honor imaginable, but who prior to last spring had been unable to match his considerable physical attributes with the other aspects of playing in the offensive line, finished number one at right tackle. Roosevelt Patterson, 6-3, 290, considered the state's number one prep lineman a few years ago, was right behind Dare. Patterson, like Dare, was ineligible for participation as a freshman. As a sophomore a year ago he was redshirted. After sitting out in 1988, Dare played in both 1989, as a backup guard, and 1990, as a backup left tackle, and Dare has also been a member of Bama kicking teams.

However, when August drills got under way, neither Dare nor Patterson was performing as well as Alabama coaches felt the right tackle position needed to be played.

The Tide then tried Joey Harville, a true freshman, at right tackle. But after a few days, Harville, who Bama coaches believe has a very bright future, was moved to the left side, as was Dare.

Enter Jon Stevenson. Stevenson, another true freshman, and Patterson are now competing for the starting job at right tackle.

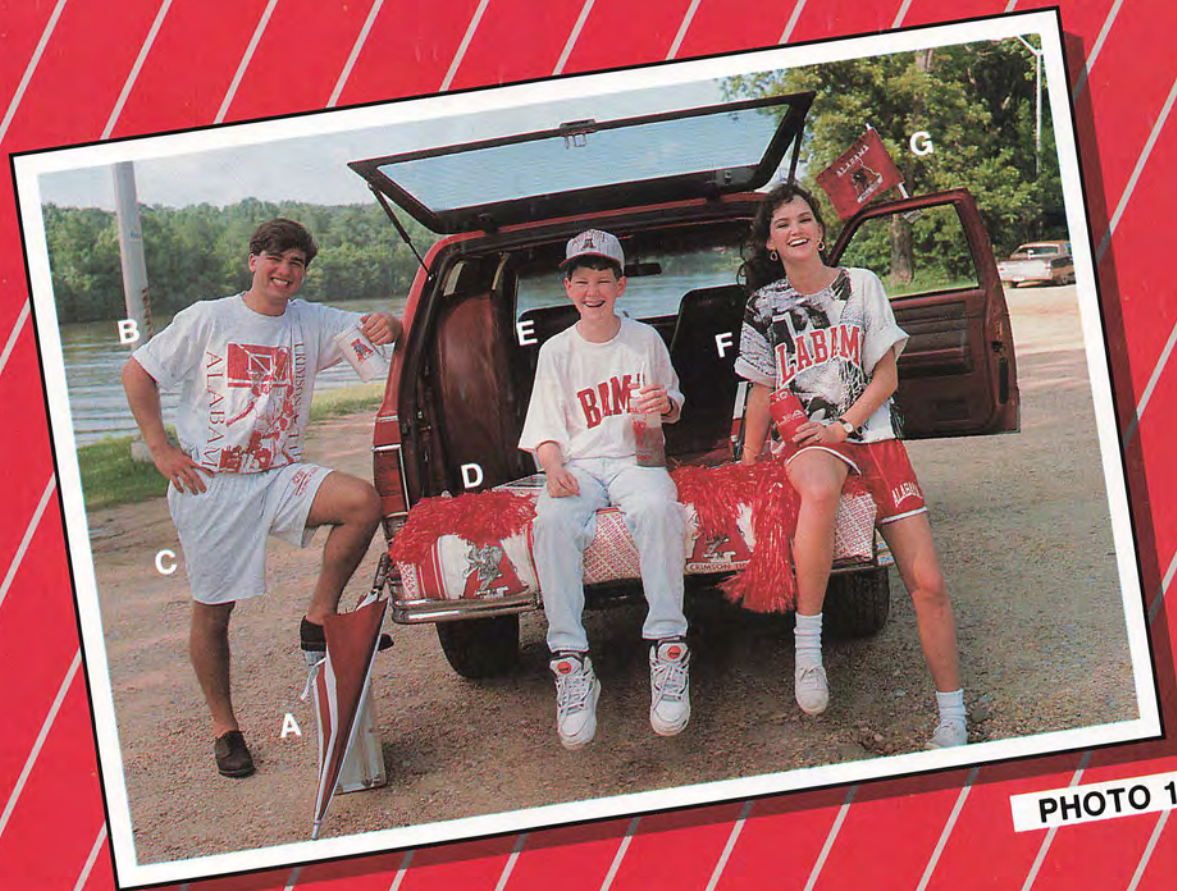
And while Stallings said after the Temple game that Stevenson had done well "for a true freshman," and that he was pleased with the work of Patterson in that game, both of them were part of the undistinguished herd in the disaster at Florida. In fact, both were cited for penalties, and penalties were a big reason for Alabama's lack of offensive success in that game.

Stevenson was the starter in the season-opener against Temple,

Jon Stevenson has a lot going for him as a football player. He is strong, fast, intelligent and dedicated. What he has going for him is that he is a true freshman playing college football at the highest level. Stevenson earned the starting job this year, but he is the first to admit that he has a long way to go to be a winning football player.

Barry Fikes Photo

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PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 6



PHOTO 7



PHOTO 10



PHOTO 11



PHOTO 12

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- M. Thermo insulated glass. Each, **\$4.95** Set of 4, **\$18.95**
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- O. Hugger. **\$1.50**

PHOTO 13

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XXL and XXXL 7 oz. **\$23.95**
- B. Crimson sweat pants, 7 oz. 50/50 cotton polyester with drawstring waistband. By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$17.95**
- C. Jostens white sweat shirt designed with crimson stripes around waistband, cuffs and upper arm. 50/50 cotton polyester. M, L, XL **\$29.95**
- D. Crimson sweat shorts with drawstring in waist, back pocket. 50/50 cotton polyester. By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$15.95**
- E. Ash gray reverse weave sweat shirt with five inch puffed letters, Alabama, underarm gusset. 95% cotton, 5% acrylic. S, M, L, XL **\$30.95**

PHOTO 14

- A. Retractable car shade from Mountain Products. **\$7.95**
- B. Go Bama car magnet. **\$9.95**
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- D. Pewter frame. **\$13.95**
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- N. Hard plastic, available in crimson with gold, crimson with silver, black with gold or black with silver. **\$4.95**
- O. Alabama Alumni with seal. **\$2.95**

PHOTO 15

- A. Nylon covered stadium cushion. 9" x 15" **\$7.95**
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PHOTO 16

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- I. White 100% twill Bama. **\$7.95**
- J. Crimson cotton twill with circle emblem. **\$8.95**

PHOTO 17

- A. Quartz analog accuracy crystal-Licensed logo. Stitched leather band, gold plated case, stainless steel case. 1 year warranty. Men's **\$29.95**
- B. Same as above. Ladies **\$29.95**
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- D.-G. Precision swiss quartz movement parts, battery power, water resistant, ABS plastic case, sweep second hand, PVC strap, stainless steel back cover. 2 year warranty on watch and battery. **\$26.95**

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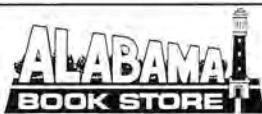
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PHOTO 3

- A. Gray sweatshirt with crimson trim, 12 oz. fleece, 50/50 cotton polyester with embroidery seal, from The Game. M, L, XL **\$52.95** XXL **\$55.95**
- B. Crimson sweat shirt, 9 oz. fleece with A/with elephant applique design, 50/50 cotton polyester, from The Game. M, L, XL **\$52.95** XXL **\$55.95**
- C. Crimson sweat pants with two side pockets, 9 oz. fleece, applique design on left leg, from The Game. S, M, L, XL **\$34.95** XXL **\$37.95**

PHOTO 4

- A. University of Alabama nylon flag, 2 ft. x 3 ft. **\$19.95**
- B. Red shaker. **\$9.99**
- C. Soft plush bear wearing Alabama Crimson Tide T-shirt, 12" high. **\$29.95**
- D. Screamer streamer. **\$2.79**
- E. Red sweat shirt with U of A Seal screened on front, 50/50 cotton polyester S, M, L **\$15.95**

PHOTO 5

- A. Ash gray sweat shirt, 9 oz. 50/50 cotton polyester, By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$23.95** XXL and XXXL 7 oz. **\$23.95**
- B. Crimson sweat pants, 7 oz. 50/50 cotton polyester, drawstring waist, By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$17.95**
- C. Ash gray 100% cotton short-sleeved shirt By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$9.95** XXL and XXXL **\$12.95**
- D. White slide shorts, 50/50 cotton polyester. M, L, XL **\$9.95**
* 1991 National Championship Trophy

PHOTO 6

- A. White T-shirt, 100% cotton, crimson and gray trim design. Made in the U.S.A. By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$9.95** XXL and XXXL **\$12.95**
- B. Ash gray shorts with two side pockets, elastic waistband, 100% cotton. By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$14.95**
- C. Sand T-shirt, 100% cotton, with mascot design, from The Game. M, L, XL, **\$11.95**
- D. Crimson shorts with two side pockets, drawstring in waistband. Made of 100% cotton, from The Game. S, M, L, XL **\$18.95**
- E. Childs 100% cotton T has Snoopy with "Where the Cool Go to School" Made By Jostens. S, M, L **\$8.95**

PHOTO 7

- A. Ash gray crewneck pin stripe sweatshirt with 4" Bama tackle twill letters, reverse weave, under arm gusset, 90% cotton, 10% acrylic. From MVP M, L, XL **\$49.95**
- B. White 100% cotton shorts with two side pockets, elastic waistband. Logo on left leg. By Jostens. M, L, XL **\$14.95**
- C. Adorable cheerleader outfit of 100% polyester. Turtle neck shirt included. Sizes 2-6 **\$21.95** 7-10 **\$23.95**
- D. Traditional white sweatshirt with flocked crimson seal design. S, M, L, XL **\$14.95** Also available in crimson with white flocked design.

PHOTO 8

- A. University of Alabama, A Pictorial History, over 600 illustrations. **\$30.00**
- B. University of Alabama Band album, includes fight song. **\$9.95**
- C. Ring binder with embossed U of A seal. **\$5.95**
- D. Neckties By Pintail. **\$14.95**
- E. 4" x 9" Pennant: with seal or elephant head **\$2.25**
- F. Printed envelopes, 16 pack, from Westrick. **\$1.29**
- G. Writing tablet, 50 sheets, from Westrick. **\$1.79**
- H. University of Alabama stapler By Bostick. **\$23.95**
- I. Vinyl ring binder with mascot logo. **\$3.95**
- J. Capstone Celebration Cookbook by The University of Alabama Women's Club. **\$11.95**
- K. Pennants By Collegiate Pacific. Crimson felt with seal or logo: 6" x 15" seal or logo **\$6.50**; 9" x 24" seal **\$7.50**; 9" x 24" logo **\$9.95**
- L. Counted Cross Stitch Kits By Happen Chance. Available in four designs. Each kit contains floss, needle, color photo, graph and complete instructions: Seal **\$8.95**; Big A with elephant **\$9.95**; Denny Chimes **\$11.95**; President's Mansion **\$11.95**

PHOTO 9

- A. Soft 7" elephant with T-shirt. Somebody at University of Alabama Loves Me, from It's Greek to Me. **\$7.95**
- B. Sun catcher or Christmas ornament, round or square. **\$5.95**
- C. Mascot key ring, 2 1/2" **\$2.95**
- D. Autograph football with tee, By Hutch, full size. **\$15.95**
- E. Mail box wrap. Meets U.S. Postal requirements. **\$8.95**
- F. Frisbee, 7" **\$2.79**
- G. Mini 6" rubber football. **\$3.95**
- H. Musical Button plays Alabama fight song. **\$5.95**
- I. Ashtray, 4" round. **\$4.95**
- J. Disposable butane lighter. **\$1.95**
- K. White Jumbo ballpoint pen. **\$1.49**
- L. Mini 9" rubber football By Hutch. **\$8.95**
- M. Vinyl ID holder with key chain. **\$2.95**
- N. Three wooden pencils, eraser and sharpener in handy tube, from Imprinted Products. **\$3.95**
- O. Red Jumbo ballpoint pen with metal clip, refillable. **\$1.49**
- P. White roller ballpoint pen with Bama logo. **\$1.29**
- Q. Solid brass key chain with enamel finish, from Secure-A-Key **\$3.95**

PHOTO 10

- A. White 100% cotton T-shirt Roll Tide Roll, with back design. L, XL **\$10.95**
- B. Plaid flannel jams with drawstring waist, 100% cotton, Alabama screened on left leg. Also available in boxers. By Gavs S, M, L, XL Jams **\$19.95** S, M, L, XL Boxers **\$12.95**
- C. Cute white 100% cotton crop top. One size fits all, By Jostens. **\$11.95**
- D. Red with white trim soccer shorts made of 100% nylon, with drawstring and elastic waistband. V-notched leg. S, M, L, XL **\$11.95**

PHOTO 11

- A. Gray and crimson striped 100% cotton T-shirt. M, L, XL **\$21.95**
- B. Shorts, available in white or gray. 100% cotton, elastic waistband with two side pockets. M, L, XL **\$14.95**
- C. Black preshrunk 100% cotton T-shirt with realistic charging elephant on front. M, L, XL **\$11.95**

3



PHOTO 4

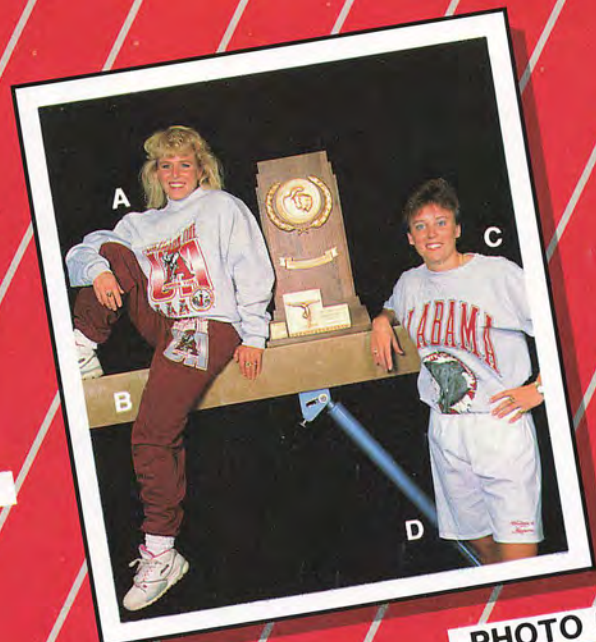


PHOTO 5



PHOTO 8



PHOTO 9



PHOTO 12



PHOTO 13



PHOTO 14



PHOTO 15

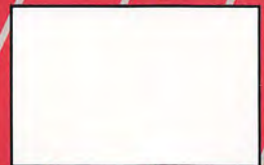


PHOTO 16



PHOTO 17

1015 University Blvd.
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becoming the first true freshman to start in the offensive line since Larry Rose in 1985, and also started against Florida. (Many reports have erroneously said Stevenson is the first true freshman to start since 1985, but there have been starting freshmen at other positions, including, obviously, Chris Anderson at tailback a year ago.)

No one tries to cover the fact that Stevenson started not so much because he is ready to play winning football as much as it was the other candidates falling by the wayside.

"The thing was that the people we tried there weren't getting it done," said Mike Solari, who coaches the Alabama tackles. "So we just sat down as a staff and made a decision to put the five best linemen on the field. At the time, one of those five was Jon." (The other four: left tackle sophomore Matt Hammond, the only returning starter in the offensive line from last year; left guard junior George Wilson, center sophomore Tobie Sheils, and right sophomore guard William Barger, who did have a few starts late in the year at right guard.)

Until that decision, Stevenson had been working at left guard behind Wilson.

Most big-time football programs have sufficient depth, making it unlikely for a true freshman to step into the starting lineup. When one does, it means he is either an extraordinary player or, more likely, that the team is thin at that position. Alabama is thin at offensive right tackle.

Stevenson is good. But it is almost a certainty that Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings would prefer to have a more experienced man at the position. Had Alabama had sufficient depth and experience, it is likely Stevenson would already have joined the ranks of the average freshman, which is to say a player ticketed for a red-shirt year, not to surface in the media until at least next spring.

In fact, that's what Stevenson expected. "I was expecting to get redshirted," he admitted. "If I was lucky, I thought I might get to dress out for a couple of games this year. That's what every freshman thinks.

"Then Coach Stallings just gave me a chance, and I got lucky."

Actually it was more than just luck as Stevenson, like Dare and Patterson, was highly-recruited. The 6-4, 285-pound man-child picked Alabama over perennial powerhouse Florida State and Notre Dame, as well as a slew of other nationally-respected football schools.

Regardless, offensive right tackle, at least for the time being, is perceived as a problem for Alabama, and will continue to be considered so until Stevenson or someone else consistently proves otherwise under game conditions.

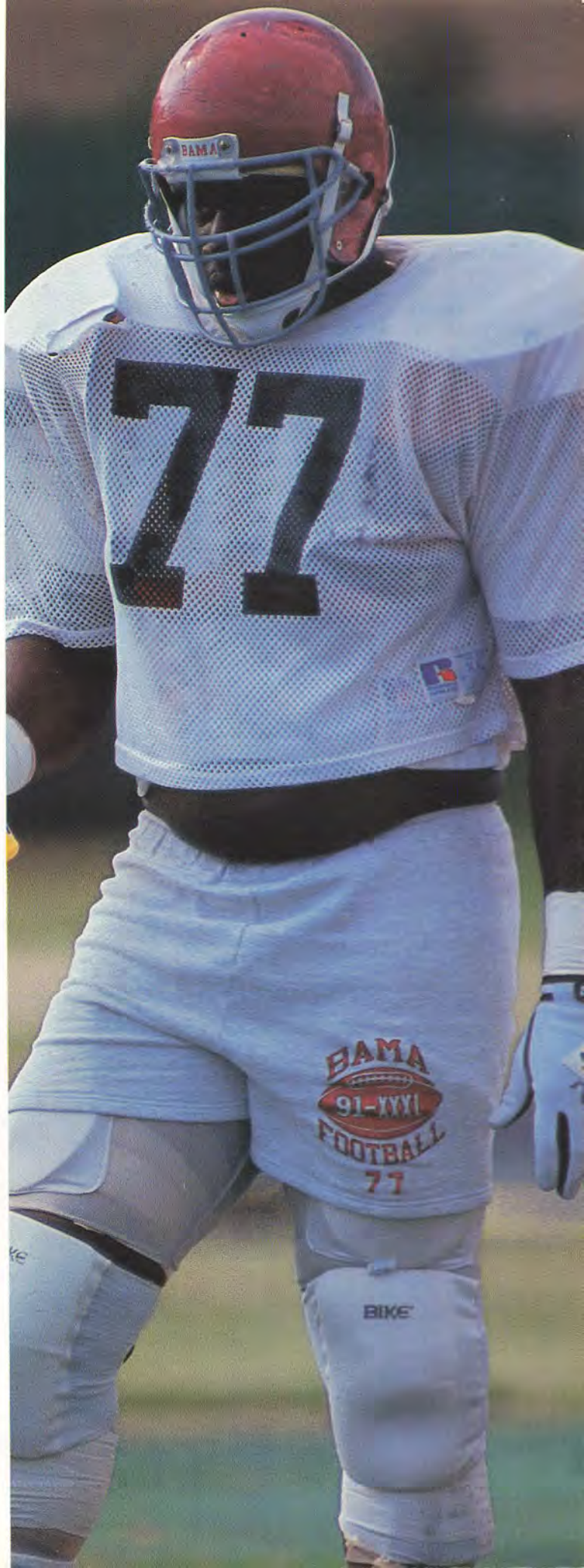
And Stevenson is in full agreement with the perception. "It's probably the weakest part of the offensive line," admitted Stevenson. "If I play there or somebody else, it doesn't matter. You've still got somebody there with no experience, and that's not very good. Hopefully Roosevelt and I can shore that up."

Solari acknowledges the shortcoming. "What we've lacked so far is the consistency and execution at the right tackles position," he said. "That's why we rotated people there. In trying to find the right person we kept changing who was running with the first team, and that drew a lot of attention."

Solari said all of the tackle candidates had good points, but each also had deficiencies. "Charlie Dare's advantage is that he has game experience as a back-up. He also works hard and competes hard in practice, he has the best size of the group, and he knows how to prepare for a game. He just needs to do it in a game. So far he's just been too inconsistent.

"Joey Harville shined early. He keeps improving, but he's just not ready yet. He hasn't earned it yet.

"Roosevelt Patterson is probably the best natural athlete of the



Roosevelt Patterson has all the attributes one would wish for in an offensive tackle save one: experience. Patterson had to miss the 1989 season for academic reasons, then was redshirted last year. Since the academic rules eliminated even practice by those not qualifying to play, the trend has been for it to take a few years for those players to become proficient.

Barry Fikes Photo

group. He has a lot of intangibles that you try to develop. But he hadn't played in a game in two years, and that has hurt him. He's still learning a lot of the techniques that he should have learned as a freshman. He needs more practice experience.

"Jon Stevenson is a unique freshman," continued Solari. "He's a mature young man who has shown tremendous work habits. A lot of that comes from his family, plus he came from a good high school (Memphis Christian Brothers) football program. He also made a tremendous commitment in the off-season. But he's still learning. Everything we do is new to him because it's his first time in this system."

Stevenson beat out the others to start the season-opener against Temple. For a young man who honestly thought he was just going to watch the Tide play this season, Stevenson is suddenly shouldering a load, which in reality may be slightly more than he, even with his big frame, is capable of handling at this point. To add to his burden, Stevenson spent the entire summer practicing the things that left guards do, not right tackles.

mer practicing the things that left guards do, not right tackles.

"It was hard to switch from guard to tackle," Stevenson said. "(The coaches) told me not to worry about anything else, that I would definitely be a left guard. Then (when fall practice started) they switched me to tackle."

"I (now) know my (tackle) assignments. I'm still having trouble with technique, but it's coming."

Stevenson admitted he's feeling the pressure to perform. "Coach Stallings puts a lot of pressure on me every day in practice," he said. "He wants to see how I handle it. I get chewed out regularly by Coach Stallings every day. He pulls me over and chews me out to see how I'll respond."

"Coach Stallings tells me I've got to make the play, that the play won't work unless I do (what I'm supposed to do). That's a lot of pressure."

"Believe it or not, I'm just a kid. I'll tell you, I grew up a lot in the last two weeks."

Stevenson knows he's got to struggle

just to maintain his place on the starting team. "I don't feel very secure at all," he stated. "It's day to day (who will be running with the first unit). I look at it the way Mike Tyson looks when he's getting ready to fight. I'm fighting for my life every day."

"Look, Roosevelt is bigger than me, stronger than me, more experienced than me, and more talented than me. I'm in a very precarious position."

"But I'm as tenacious as a Pit Bull. Nobody has ever questioned my effort. When I want something, I work for it. My whole family is like that. My Mom and Dad grew up on a farm and instilled the work ethic in me. We just worked hard."

"My parents wanted me to work hard so that I would know what it was like. When other kids had summer jobs inside fast-food places or Baskin-Robbins, I was working construction."

Yet Stevenson admitted that the Tide's summer conditioning program almost did him in. "I ran so much that I almost packed up and left," he said. "But part of

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that was because I really don't have any friends here. But I met a friend, Mary Scott Hunter (daughter of former Tide quarterback Scott Hunter), and she encouraged me. I finally had a friend, and that helped."

Breathing down Stevenson's back is the 6-4, 288-pound Patterson who, after spending 1989 as a Proposition 48 casualty and last season as a redshirt, wants the starting job and feels he belongs there.

"Sure it bothers me just a little that Jon Stevenson is ahead of me at the moment," he said without any bitterness or jealousy. "That's because I feel that I need to be there. I feel that I can contribute more to the team. I think you have to feel that way if you're a competitor. If you think the other guy is better than you, then you better join the golf team or something else."

"If I'm in there I know I'm going to do my part and get the job done. Whenever you see Roosevelt Patterson in the game, it's a safe bet that they can run successfully behind me."

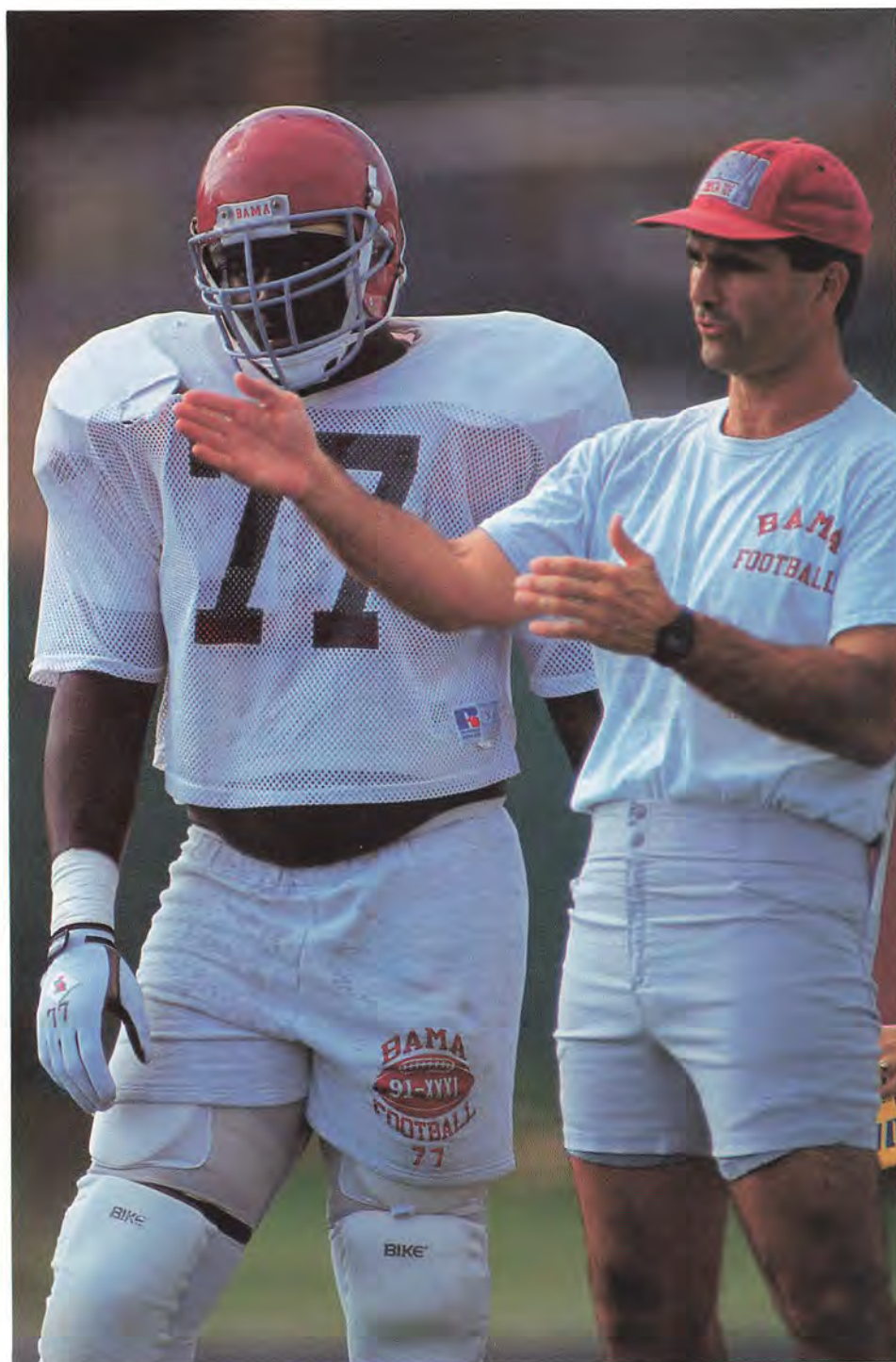
That, though, is precisely what Solari is looking for, but hasn't found on a consistent basis from any of the tackle contenders. Despite Patterson's confidence, Stevenson has apparently come the closest to showing what Solari, and ultimately Stallings, is seeking from the right tackle position.

"The right tackle is the foundation of the running game. At the University of Alabama our right tackle has to be somebody who can knock the other team's best defensive man against the run off the line of scrimmage, as well as provide good pass protection," explained Solari. "It has to be a physical offensive lineman who can move the anchor of the defense. That's necessary in order to have a good running game."

Solari said the right tackle faces a better run defender while the left tackle faces a better pass rusher. He also said the right tackle is more isolated when blocking for running plays, whereas the left tackle is more isolated in passing situations. "That's universal," he said. "What we're looking for is someone who can give us consistency in executing techniques in both the running and passing game. The player who starts will be the one who can consistently execute his techniques."

The right tackle must also be able to block backside and frontside with the right guard, as well as with the tight end. The tight end works more with the right tackle in the running game, and in a few pass protection schemes. Solari's task is to find five consistent guys who can effectively see things, communicate, and work together full-speed as a unit. And with the season already started, the sooner he can identify five people to stabilize the offensive line and successfully coordinate them, the better.

The biggest problem to this point is the fifth man, and for the moment Stevenson



Alabama Assistant Coach Mike Solari has his work cut out for him as he tries to develop an effective offensive line. Men like Roosevelt Patterson (77) have great potential but no experience.

Barry Fikes Photo

is that man.

Stevenson said he's getting encouragement from the Tide's older linemen, but admitted he was nervous heading into the Temple game.

"Let's face it, I'm only a freshman," he reiterated.

Off the field, Stevenson is soft-spoken and humorous. However, he shows another side on the field, that Pit Bull side.

But the question remains. Can he hold onto the starting position, or is it going to be who happens to be standing in that spot when the music stops?

Wimp (GASP!) Has Concerns

by Kirk McNair

Tide has some top players returning, but not enough to suit Sanderson

News flash! Wimp has some concerns about his basketball team. Alabama basketball followers have grown accustomed to the winning ways of Wimp Sanderson's teams, but they've also grown accustomed to his pessimistic outlook, so much so there's a tendency not to worry. Trust me this time, Wimp says. Worry.

While most Tide followers will probably let Sanderson do the worrying for everyone, there are legitimate concerns.

"We have so many new ones, I don't know what to expect," Sanderson said. "I can't remember when we signed seven new players. Plus, we have two players who have been in our program only for practice. That means we have nine players who have never participated in a Division I basketball game, and that makes this a very confusing situation for me. We're dealing with unknowns."

Most believe Sanderson will sort it out between October 15, when practice begins, and next spring, when the Southeastern Conference Basketball Tournament is played in Birmingham. After all, in his 11 years at the helm Alabama has posted a record of 241-110, been to the NCAA Tournament nine times (reaching the Sweet 16 six times) and the NIT once, and won five Southeastern Conference Tournament titles (including four of the last five and the last three in a row).

"It's going to take a yeoman's job to get these new people into how we play," Sanderson moaned. Hard work has never been a detriment to Sanderson before, but this year an NCAA rules change may have an effect on Alabama preparation. Athletes are limited to 20 hours per week now. In the past, Alabama has worked twice a day in the early part of practice, and that schedule will continue this year. The morning session, which begins at 6 a.m., is strictly a learning period, going over the drills and techniques that will be practiced in the afternoon. Then it's full-speed ahead in the afternoon workouts.

"That system has worked well for us," Sanderson said. "With so many new players, it should prove very important this year." He said he didn't know yet if so

many new players would mean more scrimmage work or less scrimmage work for the team in the preseason. "It depends on how quick they pick up the system," Sanderson said.

The system will not change. Alabama will try to run offensively, will try to get the ball inside when the break is not there, and the players will be expected to play good, tough defense, both in the man-to-man Sanderson prefers, and in the various zone defenses. "We have traditionally been a good defensive team, and it is critical that we continue to be," the coach said. He added that the new players "on paper appear to be pretty much the type players we like to have to do that."

Last year Alabama was a middle-of-the-pack team in league offensive statistics (averaging 78.2 points per game), but held opponents to 42.6 per cent field goal shooting (32.1 per cent from three-point range) and 72.6 points per game. Bama also outrebounded its opponents, 40.3 to 36.6.

Prior to the beginning of this season, Sanderson will be able to make a weak claim that he lost three starters from the 1990 team that went 23-10, won the SEC Tournament and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Championship Tournament. After all, Bryant Lancaster did start at the number two (wing guard) position for most of the year. Never mind that Lancaster averaged fewer than 10 minutes per game playing time and averaged only 1.4 points per game. And try to

overlook the play of his substitute, James Robinson, who last year as a freshman led Bama in scoring with 16.8 points per game.

The other two lost starters are something to worry about, particularly point guard Gary Waites. Waites was a four-year regular and last year averaged 10.5 points per game and led Alabama in assists with 176, more than any other three Alabama players put together. In addition to being a fine leader and floor player, in his senior year Waites became a dangerous outside shooter. Last year he hit 52 of 101 three-point shots, an excellent 51.5 per cent mark.

Also lost was four-year regular and All-SEC performer Melvin Cheatum, who averaged 16.5 points and 7.8 rebounds per game from his inside position.

While Cheatum gathered more honors in his Bama career, he will probably be less difficult to replace than Waites. There are inside players in the program and a couple of newcomers on the inside are highly-regarded. Alabama's hopes at point guard rest on the shoulders of a couple of junior college transfers after the only other point man in the program, Marcus Jones, was academically ineligible and left the team to enroll at Faulkner Junior College in Bay Minette.

Also lost from last year's team was inside player Marcus Campbell, who averaged over 10 minutes of playing time and 2.6 points per game. And there is a chance (in fact, a very good chance) the Tide will be without 6-8 center Marcus

1991-92 Alabama Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
3	Dennis Miller	G	Jr.	5-11 $\frac{1}{2}$	175	Tr	Watseka, Ill.
4	Kenneth Rice	G	Jr.	6-3	195	2L	Decatur
12	Elliot Washington	G	Jr.	5-10	175	Tr	Bradenton, Fla.
13	Phillip Pearson	G	Fr.	6-2	175	RS	Montgomery
21	Andre Perry	F	Jr.	6-6 $\frac{3}{4}$	230	Tr	Detroit
22	Bryan Passink	G	Fr.	6-2 $\frac{1}{2}$	170	HS	Savannah, Ga.
23	Darby Rich	F/G	Sr.	6-5	200	2L	Greer, S.C.
25	Robert Horry	F	Jr.	6-8	215	2L	Andalusia
30	Greg Glass	F/G	Fr.	6-6	206	RS	Elkton, Ky.
31	James Robinson	G	So.	6-1	175	1L	Jackson, Miss.
35	Jason Caffey	F	Fr.	6-7 $\frac{1}{2}$	229	HS	Mobile
42	Latrell Sprewell	G/F	Jr.	6-5	190	1L	Milwaukee, Wis.
44	Russell Walters	F	Fr.	6-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	220	HS	Laurel, Miss.
50	Roy Rogers	C	Fr.	6-9	190	HS	Linden
51	Cedric Moore	F/C	Fr.	6-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	192	RS	Birmingham
*54	Marcus Webb	C	Sr.	6-8	251	3L	Montgomery

*Webb ineligible for fall semester, may return for spring semester

Webb. Webb has been a regular for the past two years, and last season was sixth on the team in playing time (17.3 minutes per game) and scoring (5.5 points per game) and also contributed 4.8 rebounds per outing. Although Webb has another year of eligibility, Sanderson announced in September that Webb is not academically eligible for fall semester participation, either in practice or games, and that a determination would be made after the semester if he would be eligible in the spring semester. It is too early to say if Webb might be held out this year, then return next year.

Alabama's losses statistically from last year are about 50 per cent of the scoring and rebounding. Bama loses 39.9 points from the 78.2 and 19.6 rebounds from the 40.3 the Tide averaged each game in 1990-91.

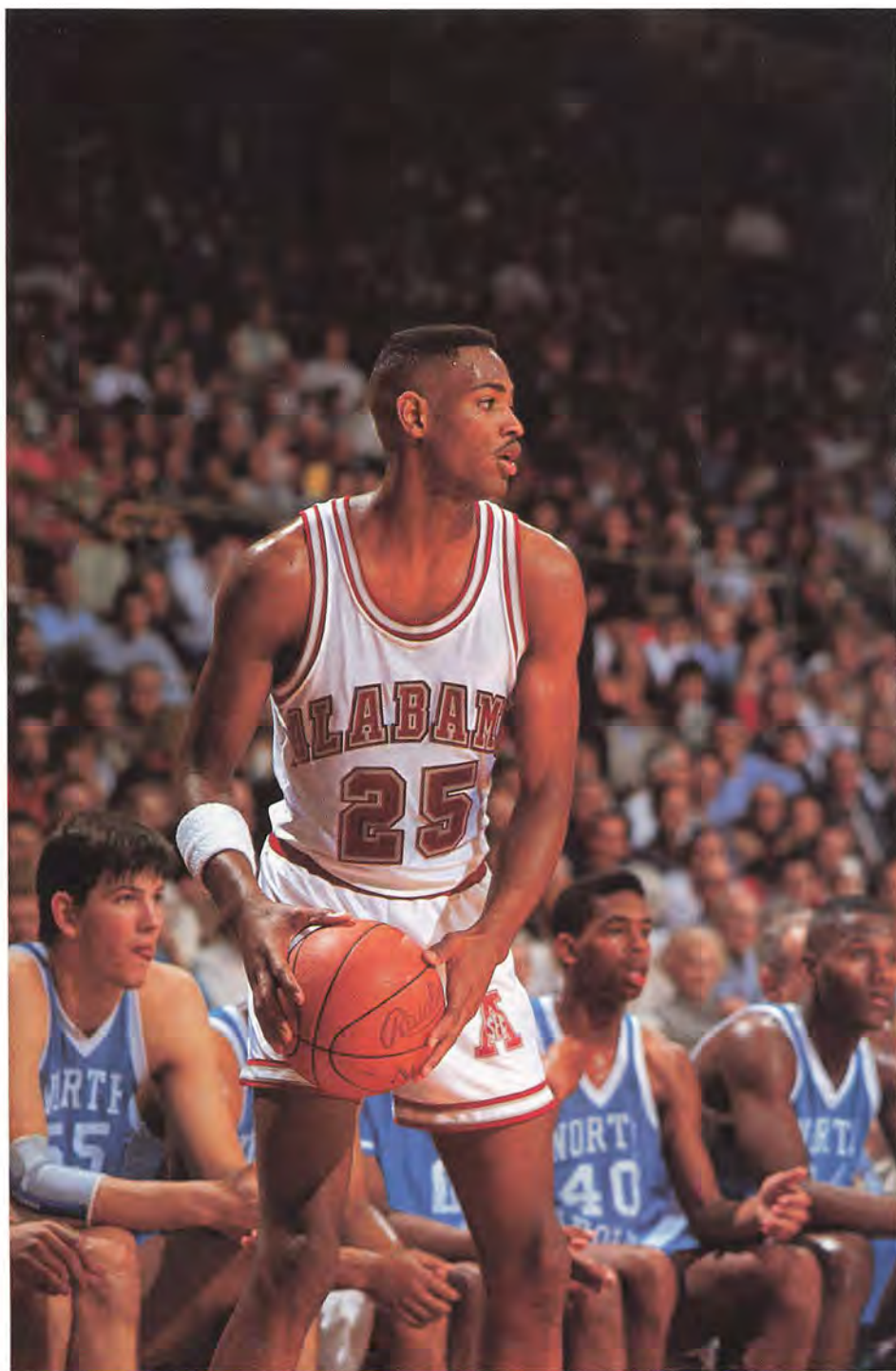
However, the cupboard is not completely bare. Three legitimate first team players return, and two of them are bona fide all-star candidates, the other above average. "But that's not enough," Sanderson said.

While senior Latrell Sprewell won't be on any preseason honor teams, he proved to be a solid player after moving into the starting lineup at the three (small forward) position last year. Sprewell is very quick, making him an effective man in Alabama's running game, as well as on defense. Last year he averaged 8.9 points and 5.0 rebounds per game. However, Sprewell's averages are somewhat skewed. In Bama's final 20 games he was in double figures 17 times, including a 21-point game against Wake Forest in the NCAA Tournament.

Sophomore James Robinson, a 6-1 scoring machine, is considered one of the most exciting players in the nation after only one year of college competition. He has the ability to make the big play shooting, rebounding, dribbling, passing or on defense. (And for those who might wonder, Robinson will not be moved to point guard, Sanderson said.)

Senior Robert Horry, a 6-8 inside player who has the skills to play on the wing, is another all-star type. He averaged 11.9 points and a team-leading 8.1 rebounds per game last year. He also blocked 77 shots, one more than the combined total of Robinson, Cheatum, Waites, Sprewell and Webb. And unlike many big men, Horry is a threat from outside. He is a very fine free throw shooter. He hit over 80 per cent from the foul line last year.

Naturally, Sanderson has some worries about his top two returning players, particularly Robinson. Horry suffered a hamstring injury last year and continued to have trouble with it through the summer as he attempted to make the United States team for the Pan-Am Games. However, he is expected to be fine when basketball practice begins. Robinson, on the other hand, has twice had surgery on his knee



Alabama's Robert Horry has been around for awhile and done an excellent job for the Crimson Tide basketball team. The senior is recovering from a hamstring pull, but is expected to be fine for this season. He will play mostly on the inside this year.

Barry Fikes Photo

since the end of last season. The first surgery repaired damage done in the NCAA Tournament. The second was to remove a cyst that formed in the initial surgical area. While Alabama doctors believe Robinson will be fine, there is enough doubt in Wimp's mind to put a few creases across his wrinkle-practiced brow.

Beyond those three, there is precious little experience on this team. Although Kenneth Rice and Darby Rich are listed as two-year lettermen, they have had almost no meaningful playing time.

The greatest concern is at point guard. "In Gary Waites we lost a lot on both ends of the floor," Sanderson said. "He was the

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playmaker. He played hard defensively. He finished up as the number two assist man in Alabama history (behind Terry Coner). And he developed an outside shot.

"Running our basketball team is important and we've got two new point guards," Sanderson said. "Hopefully, they can both come in and contribute. But they are among the nine men we have who have never played in a Division I basketball game."

The two new point guards, both junior college transfers, are 5-11 Dennis Miller and 5-10 Elliot Washington. Miller averaged 13 points and six assists per game last year at Kankakee (Illinois) Community College, while Washington averaged 17 points and a Florida junior college-leading 11 assists per game for Manatee Community College. Alabama has had good fortune with junior college transfers in recent years. "When Alvin Lee finally understood what he had to do, he became a good player for us," Sanderson said. "David Benoit was certainly a major contributor, and Latrell was last year. Because they are a little older, they are a little more mature."

Sanderson said there was also a chance that freshman Bryan Passink, who averaged 27.1 points per game at Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Georgia, last year might work at point, but Passink is generally considered a two guard. Walkon Phillip Pearson is also a point guard.

In addition to Passink, Kenneth Rice will be working behind Robinson at two guard. Rice has not had a productive college career, but he did have an outstanding year in the Birmingham Summer League. While coaches put very little stock in the various summer leagues around the country (because very little defense is played), there have been players who blossomed in such leagues. Former Tider Jim Farmer, now an NBA veteran, is a particularly noteworthy example.

While Horry could see playing time at the wing forward, the presence of Sprewell almost certainly means Horry will be inside. Sprewell will be backed by freshman Jason Caffey, redshirt freshman Greg Glass and Darby Rich.

Alabama's two inside positions, four (power forward) and five (center), are almost interchangeable. Horry is the only man in there with experience while Webb is absent. There are three others available. Redshirt freshman Cedric Moore was a notable member of last year's team as a sideline cheerleader. This year the slim man will be playing inside. But Cedric won't be the only skinny Tider. Freshman Roy Rogers, a late bloomer in his senior season, is almost a carbon copy build of Moore.

Two other candidates have a little more bulk. Junior college transfer Andre Perry was seen by a number of Bama fans this summer as he dominated the Birmingham Summer League. He is a big man who can

run. Although Sanderson considers the jury to be out on Perry, most expect him to make an immediate contribution. One area in which Perry appears to be weak: free throw shooting. That's unfortunate, because playing inside he'll almost certainly draw a lot of fouls. If there is one newcomer the Tide staff would like to hold out this year, it is probably center Russell Walters. Walters showed in high school that he can be the kind of player Sanderson really likes, a real battler. However, he played in a small school system and it will be a big jump for him to the Southeastern Conference.

It is a new ball game in one respect this year. The SEC has expanded, taking in powerful Arkansas and South Carolina. That means division play, and, not surprisingly, Sanderson sees Alabama as being in the toughest division.

"Arkansas and LSU have everyone back and they'll be picked as the top two teams in our division," he said. Added to that, Alabama got poor luck when the schedules against non-West Division teams were drawn. In the new format, each team plays every other team in its division twice, home and away, then plays one game against each team in the other division, making a total of 16 conference games (compared to 18 under the old double round robin system when there were 10 SEC teams). For that reason, there will not be an outright SEC champion in regular season play. There will be an East champion, a West champion and an SEC Tournament champion. Alabama will play out-of-division road games against the three toughest East Division teams, Kentucky, Georgia and South Carolina, while Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Florida will come to Tuscaloosa.

Sanderson thinks his non-conference schedule will be good for his team. He is playing in a tournament in Hawaii in order to get three extra games. Games played in Hawaii (or Alaska) do not count against the limit, so Bama has 30 games scheduled. Among those are a couple of non-conference games during the conference part of the schedule. Although other SEC teams have done that with some regularity, Alabama has not.

NCAA teams are also allowed to play two exhibition games, one against a foreign team and one against a team representing a religious organization, so Alabama will play exhibitions against a Czechoslovakian team on November 14 and against High Five America on November 18. However, Bama's longstanding practice of playing a few intrasquad games off campus is no longer permitted. The Tide will have an intrasquad game that is open to the public in Coleman Coliseum around Alabama's November 2 Mississippi State football game, either Friday night or Saturday morning.

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Tide Plans To Pick Up Tempo

by Becky Hopf

Moody confident he has the players he needs to have a team of the 90s

Maybe it won't require a visit by Sherlock Holmes, but there's a mystery brewing in Tuscaloosa.

University of Alabama Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody says his conditioned response to the question of what kind of team he'll have this year is, "It's a mystery."

"It's a mystery team because everything we've done the last two years will be totally changed," says Moody, who finished his second season in 1991 with a 17-12 record. "We'll be able to revert back to the philosophy I have about how basketball should be played in the first place. It will be fast-paced, offensively and defensively."

Moody's defense is one, he says, that will "create total havoc" because of its full-court pressure.

"If we're able to do that successfully, then in turn it will make our offense that much more exciting because it will generate so much more tempo. And that's the word that should best describe the philosophy and the attitude that we are trying to implement in our players' minds."

Turning it up a notch is Moody's goal this year, and he and his staff, which includes once again assistants Sherri Smelser and Dottie Kelso and graduate assistant Stephanie Meier, are feeding that ambition into the players even in their pre-season conditioning.

"It will be interesting. It will be exciting. Sometimes it will be awesome, and sometimes it can be ugly. It's just according to how things fall into place on a particular night. The teams that are succeeding in men's and women's basketball are the ones who have installed this offense of the 90s—the fast-paced, up tempo type of basketball that just generates energy. That's what we're going to try to do."

Although this is only his third season at Alabama, Moody is finding himself with a luxury few coaches feel this quick. He says he is not a year away from having "his" team. His system is at "go" now. His 1992 Tide team is saturated with players he believes possess the speed and quickness it takes to run the scheme.

"This is the first year we've had the total personality that is conducive to playing this kind of basketball," said Moody.



Rick Moody

One of those reasons is the smorgasbord of point guards Moody now has. Four-year starter Amy Lannom returns after averaging 6.7 points and 4.4 assists last season. Freshman Niesa Johnson, who holds the national record for three-pointers in a game (11), averaged 34.8 points, 7.1 rebounds and 6.8 assists per game her senior year at Clinton (Mississippi) High. Johnson is capable of running the one, two or three guard according to Moody. Transfer Melissa Del-Valle does what Moody describes as "some incredible things with the basketball both with the dribble and passing the basketball. If you're not used to playing with her, when she passes you the ball, she'll knock your teeth out." And the quartet is rounded out by freshman Madonna Thompson who Moody says "makes excellent decisions" and could run the one or two guard spot.

"You have to have a quarterback, and we've got four people who I have the utmost confidence in putting at that position which is the most important position on both ends of the floor. Offensively you have to be able to push the ball up the floor and make good decisions. But defensively, they have to put pressure on the opponent's point guard from 94 feet in order to create the havoc that can generate that tempo."

Those four are also capable of running the two-guard spot. In that offense, the person at two guard has to be able to score and has to be able to shoot the ball and want to shoot it. Also in line at this spot is sophomore Betsy Harris who started in 22 games last year and was a 40 percent three point shooter. Harris aver-

aged 11.6 points a game her first season.

The offense depends a great deal on the three-point shot, and Moody has a number of players he can go to here including Harris, Johnson, Thompson and Junior College All-America transfer Rozetha Burrow.

"When you consider these people, you have the potential offensively to score a lot of points on the perimeter and on the fast break. The offense won't be based strictly on the three point shot, but it will also consist of people being able to take the ball to the basket off of the dribble. We call it penetration, and that's something else we haven't had in this program for three years—people who can take the ball to the basket and make things happen."

Leading Alabama inside again will be senior forward Linda Burgess who, after transferring to Alabama last season, was named All-Southeastern Conference. Burgess led the Tide in scoring and rebounding with 15.8 points and 7.9 rebounds.

"Linda's a bona fide, big-time player," said Moody. "She's an athlete, too. She can run the floor. She's big and strong. She can shoot from 12 feet and she can take it to the hole and post it up. She's got great skills. She's also a great rebounder. With her in the lineup with those others, I really believe we have the potential to create the style of play we've been wanting to play for the last couple of years."

Another forward, Dothan's Carla Koonce, who Moody says has "a lot of athletic ability," will finally get her chance to play for Alabama. Koonce hurt her knee in a pick-up game just days after she arrived at Alabama last season and had surgery that caused her to be a medical redshirt her freshman season. Her roommate, Camillia Crenshaw, who played in 19 games last season, will give Alabama more depth at guard.

Stacey Franklin, a starter at guard last season, is being moved to the five spot this year, her senior season.

"We're moving her to post. She's a kid who led the nation in rebounding in high school, and she's one of those kinds of people who has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. I'm looking at her at the five spot. With the style of play we are implementing and the skill needed to play that position effectively, plus her ability to rebound and defend—and just knowing how to win—she fits that position perfectly. She can initiate the fast break with passes and she can put the ball on the floor against the press. She can run the floor on the fast break. It's going to be a change and a challenge for her, but I have the utmost confidence in her. I think she'll be at home again playing that position."



Amy Lannom



Linda Burgess



Leslie Claybrook

Moody also cited the potential of junior Leslie Claybrook at forward and senior Barbara Ann West. West is being looked at for the five spot as well. Freshman Marlene Stevenson, who Moody describes as having "an SEC body," will also come in and because of her athleticism, give Alabama depth on its inside game.

"There are a lot of positives to getting everybody in the game," says Moody, who, if everyone stays healthy, has depth this year. "It keeps your team's morale high. I envision us playing nine or ten people a game even in our toughest games."

Moody's first two Alabama teams have been fence teams—just barely edged out of making it into post-season play as he was 16-11 in 1990 and 17-12 in 1991, a season Moody felt Alabama was overlooked by the NCAA selection committee.

"You have to earn the right to go to the NCAA tournament," says Moody. "I thought we were very, very close last year. But at the same time, we had several opportunities to ice an NCAA bid, and we never did it. So I'm not going to blame the selection process or that they took seven SEC teams and that we were the one left out. We had the opportunities to go out and earn a bid beyond any shadow of a doubt, and we didn't do it. It's my responsibility to make sure we take advantage of those opportunities. There is no doubt in my mind that we are going to have the opportunity this year, and I'm going to have to do a better job of making sure we are prepared and take advantage."

Alabama opens its season in an exhibition game at home against a team from Australia on November 9. The Tide plays 11 home games this year, two of which are double headers with the men's team, including the women's February 12 game

against Auburn. Alabama is hosting the second annual Shoney's Classic December 19-20 and has invited Houston, Middle Tennessee State and Jackson to that field.

Tournament stops also include Chicago for a tournament hosted by DePaul, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for one by Middle Tennessee State.

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Burton Heads List Of Linemen

by Mike Herndon

Experts say Alabama is loaded with prep football prospects this year

The 1991 football season is just begun, but college recruiters already have their eyes on some high school seniors around the state. The mailboxes of these talented young men are already being stuffed with brochures and information packets from universities around the Southeast and the country.

This is a list of some of the most highly regarded and sought-after linemen, linebackers and tight ends in the state. While this is not the Crimson Tide's recruiting list, many of these players will be hearing from the Tide staff, if they haven't already. Most are considering the Tide so you may see some of these names on the Tide roster next year.

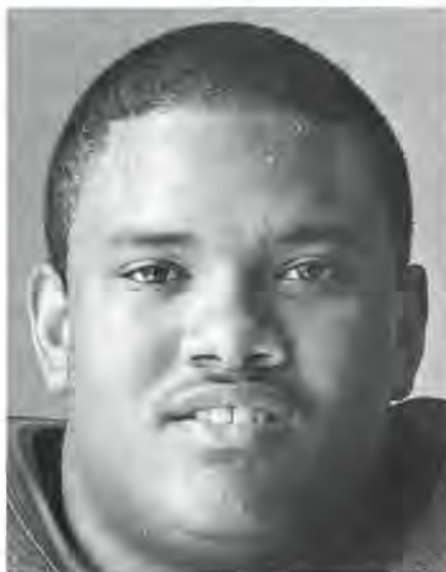
The top prospect in the state, lineman or otherwise, is **Kendrick Burton**, a 6-7, 280-pound defensive lineman from Hartselle. Virtually every major Alabama newspaper ranks him at the top of their list of college prospects. He made 77 tackles and 18 sacks last year as a junior, and has excellent speed, with a 4.8 time in the 40.

"Kendrick has more ability than anyone I've ever coached," Hartselle Coach Don Woods said. "He's got all the build in the world, and on top of that, he's an excellent human being."

The Tuscaloosa News, which ranked Burton at the top of their "Sweet 16" list, called Burton "the top DT in America ... probably the state's most talked-about defensive line prospect since [former Alabama star] Jon Hand."

Woods is the brother of University of South Carolina Head Coach Sparky Woods, which might start some minds to wondering—especially after Burton attended the USC camp last summer—but from all indications, the highly-touted senior is keeping his options open. His grades are safely above the 2.0 minimum grade point average, but he has not yet learned whether he has passed a standardized test (ACT or SAT).

While Burton is universally considered the top line prospect in Alabama, he is not the only one. This is considered by



Kendrick Burton

the so-called (and self-anointed) recruiting experts as an outstanding year in Alabama for the big men. Following is a look at some of the state's top prospects at line and linebacker positions in alphabetical order. In future issues we'll check out the skill position players in the state as well as prospects from outside of Alabama.

National signing date for high school football players begins February 5. While teams may sign up to 25 new players, the overall squad limits drop next year from 95 scholarshiped football players to 92.

Prattville's **Shay Allen** may not top any newspaper lists, but the 6-4, 283-pound tackle does have something going for him—versatility. Aside from grading out in the high 70 percent range on his blocks last year, he has also snapped for punts, field goals and extra points for the past three years for Coach Bobby Wasden. Allen also throws the shot and discus for the Lion track team. His grades are above the 2.0 floor and he made a 25 on his ACT. Allen lists Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, LSU and Nebraska as schools he is considering.

Darrell Blackburn is a 6-5, 220-pound defensive end at Huntsville Butler, who the *Birmingham Post-Herald* ranked 10th on their preseason list of the "10 Most Wanted." He led his team in tackles last year with 104, and proved his pass-rushing prowess as he registered 16 sacks. Blackburn is fairly versa-



Shay Allen

tile—he can also play linebacker—and *The Tuscaloosa News*, who listed Blackburn 13th, called Blackburn "a late bloomer who is probably the best player in Huntsville."

John Causey is a 6-2, 250-pound Lowndes County product who ranked eighth on the "Sweet 16" list and called "the fastest-rising offensive lineman in the state." He has passed the ACT and is considered one of the top offensive line prospects this year.

Roanoke Handley has a few prospects on this list, including **Chris Davis**, a 6-7, 250-pound tight end. Davis runs a 4.9 40 and averaged 25 yards per reception his junior year. He is considered a good blocking tight end, and is an A/B student to boot.

Another talented tight end in the class of '92 is **Derrick Dorn** of Daleville. This 6-5, 210-pounder runs 4.55 in the 40 and benches 275. Last year, Dorn caught 24 passes for 498 yards and eight touchdowns. He also returned three punts for 75 yards—all in one game. Dorn doubles as a safety for Coach Perry Swindall's squad and registered 43 solos and 61 assists. "He's very fast," Swindall said. "He will knock your brains out." Dorn has been contacted by every SEC school and other programs across the nation. He is a good friend of Auburn fullback Tony Richardson, but Swindall said Dorn wasn't letting that fact affect his decision.

Alabama is in the top three on the wish list of Fairhope's **Dan Hoover**,



John Causey



Rhett Idland



Kevin Jackson

Coach Rick Cleveland said. The 6-5, 245-pounder plays tight end for Cleveland's Pirates, but will likely be an interior lineman in college. "Dan's a player," Cleveland said, "He's the best offensive lineman I've ever coached." Hoover graded out at 90 percent the first two games this year, and has already passed the ACT.

There are a number of good prospects from Huntsville on the list, but none had more tackles than Huntsville Lee's **Keith Humphrey**. At 6-1, 195 pounds, he might be switched to defensive back from his current linebacking position—where he registered 121 tackles last year—but with a 4.65 time in the 40, that's a switch he seems able to handle.

Rhett Idland of Greenville is another head-hunting linebacker in this year's bountiful crop. The 6-3, 225-pounder has 28 tackles in the first two games this year, his first at linebacker after switching from defensive end. *The Alabama Journal* ranked Idland, a big Bama fan, ninth in their list of the "Alabama Top 10." As a bonus, he is also a three-year starter on the Greenville baseball team.

Greensboro's **Grady Jackson** has been attracting the attention of many college scouts, not only because of his talent, but also because he keeps growing. Jackson, who plays defensive tackle and fullback for Coach Dave Cross, has grown to 6-3, 280 pounds and still runs a 4.9 40, but his grades could send him to junior college instead of a Division I program.

Kevin Jackson is a 6-2, 210-pound linebacker from Dothan's Northview

High, who Coach Willard Whitcomb calls "a great athlete with good speed." Good speed indeed. Jackson runs 4.39 in the 40, as well as benching about 290.

Tuscaloosa Holt's **Kerry Jenkins** has good size at 6-6, 250 pounds, and good speed with a 4.9 time in the 40. He's playing defensive line for the first time this year, but Coach Woody Clements

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D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means samples, complimentary, and other free copies	229
E. Total distribution	16,461
F. Copies not distributed	
1. Office, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	539
2. Return from New Agents	60
G. Total	17,060

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete,
Lynne P. McNair, publisher



Stephen Miles



Jerrad Moseley



Chris Mullins

said Jenkins excels on the offensive side of the ball.

Anyone looking for a lineman with a strong upper body will find that Roanoke Handley's **Chris May** fits the bill. The 6-4, 261-pounder was also the runner-up in the state powerlifting championships. He dead lifts 500, runs a 5.0 40, and Coach Mike Parker said May has never graded under 90 percent in his blocking. "He's the best technique guard I've ever coached," Parker said. May was all-state as a junior and is also an excellent student, with a 3.2 GPA and an 18 on the ACT.

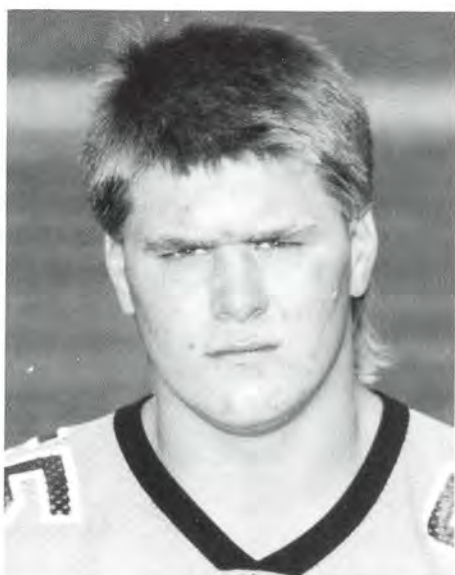
Defensive tackle **Stephen Miles** of

Parrish is also a good student, with a 3.0 GPA and an 18 on the ACT. He's also 6-7, 248 pounds, which is definitely a bonus. He recorded 123 tackles last year, with 23 sacks. He lists Alabama, Vanderbilt, Georgia Tech, Tennessee and Ole Miss as schools he is considering.

Coach Bobby Joe Johnson has turned out outstanding prospects just about every year at Cherokee County High School in Centre, and one this year may be tight end **Jerrad Moseley**, a 6-7, 205-pounder. He is a three-year starter, runs a 4.7 40 and has a 3.7 grade point average and made 21 on the ACT. His brother goes to Vanderbilt.

Another Dothan Northview product is **Chris Mullins**, a 6-2, 270-pound tackle. Mullins is extremely strong, and although his speed is questionable, he will likely be a guard on the college level.

Probably the best offensive line prospect in the state is **Jeremy Pennington** of Lamar County. This 6-3, 283-pound phenom is ranked fourth on the "10 Most Wanted" list. Pennington, an all-state selection as a junior, is very strong (he benches 345) and has good agility. "Offensive linemen have to have good feet, and he's got that," Coach Kenneth McKinney said. "He's going to grow some more; he's only 17."



Jeremy Pennington



Israel Raybon



Chris Simmons

Pennington is also a very good student and has already passed the ACT. He lists Alabama, Georgia, Auburn, Notre Dame and Tennessee as schools he is considering.

The Tuscaloosa News lists Greenville's **Ozell Powell** as the number seven prospect in the state. The 6-7, 235-pound defensive end had 15 sacks last season, and also plays tight end for Coach Gene Allen's squad. He's also pretty impressive on a basketball court, averaging 20 points per game for Greenville last year.

Israel Raybon is a 6-7, 218-pound linebacker who also plays tight end for Coach Butch Weaver's Huntsville Lee team. Raybon runs a 4.6 40 and recorded 57 tackles and nine sacks last year. He is also a three-year starter in basketball and carries a 2.1 GPA. He is considering Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi State, Memphis State and LSU.

Vigor's **Albert Reese** is a highly touted defensive lineman, ranked among the top two or three players in the state on most lists. The 6-6, 240-pounder

recorded 66 tackles last year, with 15 sacks. Reese's grades are suspect, and he will have to pass the ACT to show his stuff in the Division I college ranks.

Roanoke Handley's **Darrell Sanders** is huge at 6-4, 337 pounds. He also runs a 5.2 40 and benches 375. What more could you hope for, you ask? Well, Sanders is also a good student who scored a 20 on the ACT. This behemoth is considering Alabama, Auburn, Michigan and LSU.

Perhaps overshadowed by his highly-touted teammate, Hartselle's **Chris Simmons** nevertheless shines through as a top prospect. *The Tuscaloosa News* ranked him as the number two prospect in the state, right behind his cohort, Burton. The 6-3, 220-pounder had 85 tackles and 10 sacks last year as a defensive end, but moved to linebacker this year for Coach Don Woods. He runs a 4.65 40 and has a nose for the football.

Laron White, 6-3, 260 pounds, is a standout defensive lineman for his father Louis' Courtland squad. Growing up

around football has obviously paid off for the younger White, especially playing for the perennial powerhouse Chiefs. He runs a 4.8 40 and benches 350.

While these have received the most attention as potential college prospects, that does not mean that they will all be prospects at the end of the year. Nor does it close the door on others that college coaches are checking out. Other possible prospects among linemen and linebackers in Alabama this year may include:

Maurice Belser, offensive lineman, Cordova; Brent Byrd, linebacker, Enterprise; Scott Freeman, offensive lineman, Oakman; Andy Fuller, linebacker, J.O. Johnson; Jermaine Judge, tight end-defensive end, Baldwin County; Rod Ollison, center, Greenville; John Tanks, linebacker, Choctaw County; Keith Washington, linebacker, Montgomery Lee; Derrick Atchley, linebacker, Haleyville; Phillip Jackson, lineman, Plainview; Craig Stephens, linebacker, Hewitt-Trussville; and Dustin Wright, offensive lineman, Tuscaloosa County.

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Schedules Of Alabama's Football Opponents

Team	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
TEMPLE Owls Philadelphia, Pa.		@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 3-41	@ Pittsburgh 7-26	@ Clemson 7-37	Howard	Penn State	@ West Virginia	Navy		@ Syracuse	Boston College	@ Rutgers	Akron	
FLORIDA Gators Gainesville, Fla.		San Jose State 59-21	ALABAMA (Gainesville) 35-0 (ESPN)	@ Syracuse 21-38	Mississippi State (Orlando)	@ LSU	Tennessee	Northern Illinois	Kentucky	@ Auburn	Georgia (Jacksonville)	Kentucky		Florida State
GEORGIA Bulldogs Athens, Ga.		LSU 31-10		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 0-10 (ABC)	Cal-State Fullerton	Clemson	@ Ole Miss	@ Vanderbilt			Florida (Jacksonville)	Auburn		@ Georgia Tech
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.		@ Syracuse 10-37	SMU 14-11	LSU 14-16	ALABAMA (Nashville) 7-00 CDT	@ Duke	Auburn	Georgia	@ Ole Miss	@ Army	Kentucky			@ Tennessee
U-T-CHATTANOOGA Moccasins Chattanooga, Tenn.		Tennessee Tech 41-14		The Citadel 33-26	@ Appalachian State	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1-30 CDT		@ Western Carolina	Marshall	Western Kentucky	@ East Tennessee State	@ Furman	VMI	
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.		@ Florida State 11-38	@ Mississippi State 0-48	Rice 19-28	Syracuse	SMU	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2-30 CDT	@ Southern Miss		@ East Carolina	Navy		LSU	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.		Sept. 5 @ Louisville 28-11	UCLA 30-16	Mississippi State 26-24	Auburn		@ Florida	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1-30 CDT		Memphis State	@ Notre Dame	Ole Miss	@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.		Texas 13-6	Tulane 48-0	@ Tennessee 24-26	Florida (Orlando)		Kentucky	Memphis State	@ Auburn	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1-30 CDT		@ LSU	Ole Miss	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.		@ Georgia 10-31	@ Texas A&M 7-45	Vanderbilt 16-14		Florida	Arkansas State	@ Kentucky	Florida State	@ Ole Miss	ALABAMA (Baton Rouge) 7-00 CST	Mississippi State	@ Tulane	
MEMPHIS STATE Tigers Memphis, Tenn.		Ole Miss 0-10	@ East Carolina 13-20	Arkansas State 31-21		@ Missouri	Southern Miss	@ Mississippi State	Tulsa	@ Tennessee	Louisville	ALABAMA (Memphis) 2-00 CST		
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.			Ole Miss 23-13	@ Texas 14-10	@ Tennessee	Southern Miss	@ Vanderbilt		Mississippi State	Florida	Southwest Louisiana	@ Georgia		ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1-30 CDT

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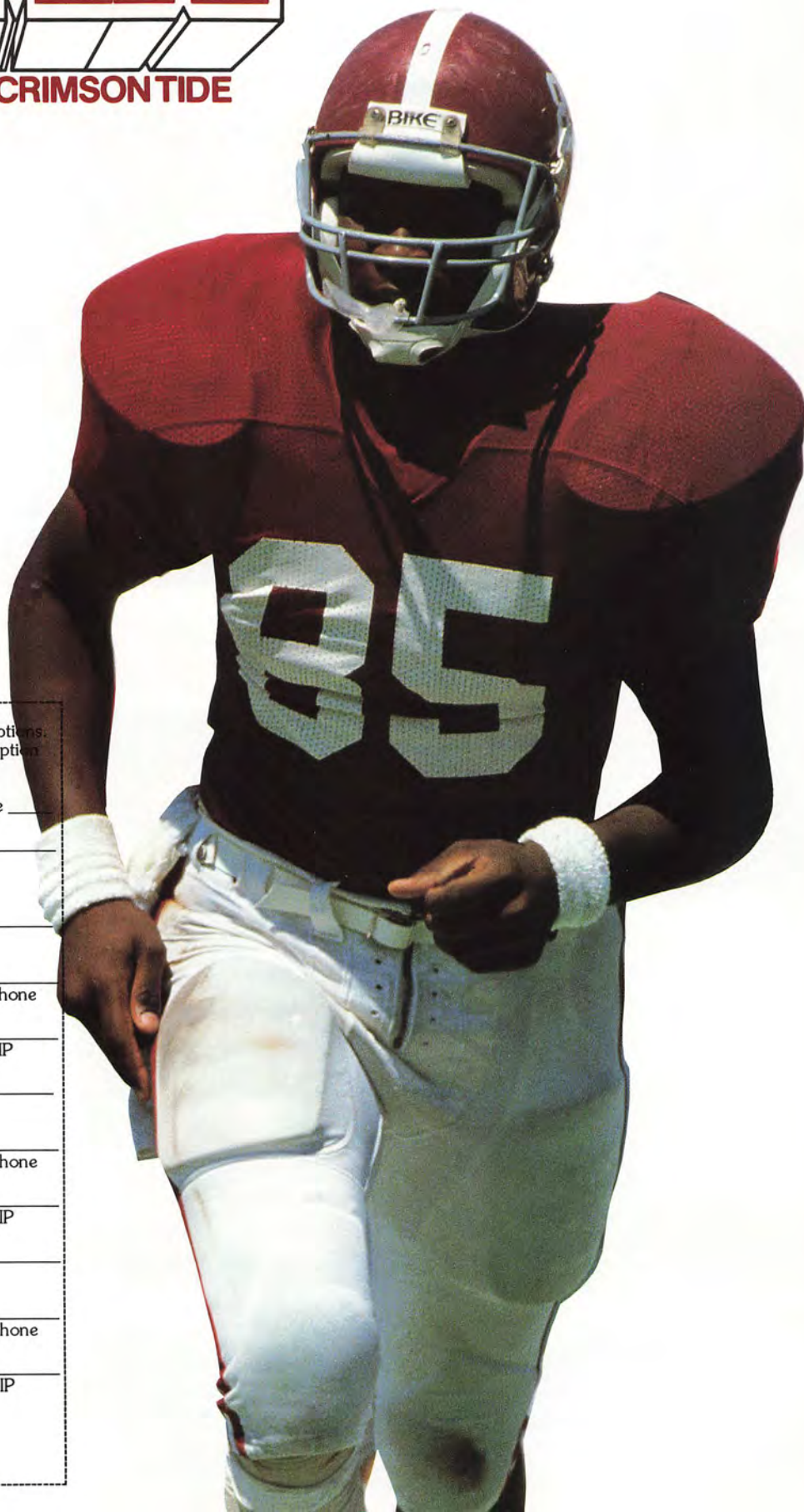
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